

JUMBO Summer Fun Issue! ★ Free Color-In Poster!

American Girl

July/August 2006

\$4.95

21 Ways to
Get **Wet**

Make Money
Selling **Crafts**

Throw the
Most Colorful
Party Ever!

Plus!
Quizzes, games,
jokes, boredom
busters, and
more!

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Amigas Party

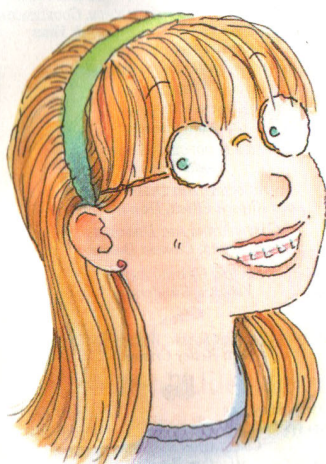
Invite your friends
over for a fun fiesta!

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Summer Craft Sale

Make cute nature crafts, and make money, too!

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About the Cover

Meet Marki M., age 10.

We asked her how she has fun in the summer.

What's your favorite way to get wet?

Swimming!

Would you rather swim in the ocean or in a pool?

In a pool. The ocean has too many rocks and creatures.

Who do you like to swim with?

I have nine brothers and sisters, and it's fun to swim together. My brother pretends he's a shark, and we have to jump on rafts to get away from him!

Marki M.

For more about our photo shoot, go to "Behind the Scenes" on page 73.



See AG Online!

Visit americangirl.com to peek behind the scenes of AG magazine!

Always get a parent's permission before surfing the Web or giving out your full name, address, or any other personal info.



Oops! Our Mistake!

We goofed! We made a mistake in the "Snoozewiches" recipe on page 13 of the March/April 2006 issue. It should read: "In a bowl, mix together 1 box cake mix (any flavor), ½ cup shortening, and one egg." We're sorry for the mix-up.



Great Story

I really enjoyed the March/April 2006 issue. One of my favorite parts was the story "Confessions of a Former Only Child." The story was cool because I am an only child and if I got a new sibling, I would probably feel the same as Ella. Isadora :-)

Age 10, Florida

Making Cents

The "Are You a Money Minder?" quiz from the March/April issue was perfect for my family! My brother cannot enter a store without asking "Can I buy that?" about everything he sees. I think this will help him mind his money better.

Erin H.
Age 11, California



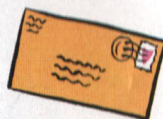
Write to Us!

Want to drop us a line? Write us at:

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562

You can also send letters via e-mail to im_agmag_editor@americangirl.com. Either way, be sure to include your first and last name and your birth date. We can't use every letter we receive, but we read and learn from each one.



Official Rules

1. Employees of American Girl and its affiliates and their families are not eligible.
2. Only one entry per family.
3. To be valid, all entries must be received by mail by August 15, 2006. Entries may not be faxed or e-mailed.
4. One winner will be chosen at random.
5. All entries become the property of American Girl and will not be returned.
6. Void where prohibited by law.



Win It!

On page 34, you'll read about our latest Win It! contest. To enter, send a postcard by August 15 with your first and last name and address to:

Win It!—J/A 06
American Girl magazine
8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



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Gina Beebe

PUBLISHER

Diane Morgenthaler

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Julie Mierkiewicz

SENIOR PRODUCTION MANAGER

Paula Moon

ASSOCIATE ART DIRECTORS

Lara Klipsch Elliott, Dan Nordskog

CONTRIBUTING ART DIRECTORS

Chris David, Camela Decaire

MASTER GRAPHIC ARTIST

Virginia Gunderson

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Patti Kelley Criswell

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Shawn Niebeling

BUSINESS ANALYST

Jodie Baber

CIRCULATION ASSISTANT

Heather Hempel

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Winner of a 2005
Parents' Choice
Silver Award



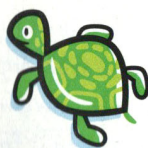
The National
Magazine
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American Girl™

Girls

E X P R E S S

Nests' Best Friend

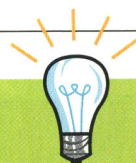


Kirsty H. wants tiny turtles to have a chance. That's why the 12-year-old Florida girl serves on a turtle patrol that helps protect the beach nests of sea turtle eggs.

It's hard being a baby sea turtle. After the turtles hatch, they crawl out of their sandy beach nests and scuttle down the beach toward the water. The babies are vulnerable to humans, pollution, and predators, and very few reach adulthood. All sea turtle species are considered endangered or threatened.

That's where Kirsty and her fellow turtle patrol members come in. They walk up and down the beach, measuring turtle tracks and looking for nests. They post signs and barricades warning beachgoers to stay away from the nests. The patrol also picks up trash to make the baby turtles' journey safer.

"I love doing this," Kirsty says about working for the turtles. "It makes me feel like I'm really helping."



Did You Know?

You'll flip for these fun facts!

Chirp-o-meter

Next time you're outside in the evening, listen to the crickets—they're telling you something. You can estimate the outside temperature in degrees by counting the number of cricket chirps you hear in 15 seconds and then adding 37.

Buzzword



spangled

How to say it: SPANG-guld

What it means: covered with sparkling objects

One way to use it: Catie's favorite summer skirt was dyed with bright colors and spangled with tiny sequins.



The buzzword is tucked into this issue of *American Girl*. Can you find it? The answer is on page 56.

Find It!



Look for fun facts sprinkled throughout the magazine!

True Story

Lizzy G. has a can-dough attitude.



Dear American Girl,

My dad and I wondered if we could make an actual cookie out of the dough in cookie-dough ice cream. We talked about it, but my mom didn't think it would work.

One summer day, our family went out for ice cream at a local dairy farm. While we were eating, Dad and I decided that we would put our question to the test, and we took home a quart of chocolate chip cookie-dough ice cream.

When we got home, we used spoons to dig out the dough pieces, rinsed the dough, and let it dry. We mushed it together to form one cookie and baked it for 12 minutes. And ... success! We let the cookie cool, and I shared it with my parents and little brother. Mom and Dad thought it needed baking powder, but we all liked it.

Sincerely,

Lizzy G.

Age 10, Pennsylvania



Here's Lizzy with her cookie!

Ice Cream

Ice cold dripping
Down my hand
Yummy, frozen,
Freezing, too
Flavors cold as snow,
Good and tasty, good as gold
Squishy, sloppy, too
So long, bye-bye
Wait!
Let's have another one

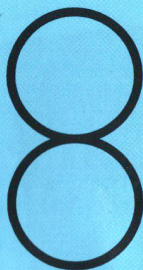


Anna A.
Age 10, Missouri



Double-Dip Doodle

Draw a sweet treat using a few simple shapes.



1. Draw two circles.



2. Create a cone.



3. Add flavors and sprinkles. Yum!

Pop Stars



Shannon L. got to see her cool creation come to life. The Texas 11-year-old was one of ten kids who got to go behind the scenes at an ice cream factory to learn about how frozen pops are made. The kids had created frozen pop flavors for a contest, and part of the prize was getting to try out specially created samples of the winning flavors. Shannon made up Banana Split on a Stick, which had layers of strawberry, banana, and chocolate. Shannon thinks that people would buy her sweet, creamy creation. "It would be a good kind!"



Photos: Nestlé Ice Cream

Shannon made popsicles at the factory and got to try her winning combination!

Other winners

Strawberry Lime Slime: A splash of red slime (strawberry-flavored) meets a cup of green ooze (orange juice and limeade).

Ivanna S., age 8

Fruit Confusion: Half the pop is purple, but it tastes like pineapple. The other half is yellow but tastes like green apple.

Amber B., age 13

Stop Pop: A fruit-flavored frozen stoplight of cherry, lemon, and lime

Haley H., age 9

Emma B., age 11

PB&J Pop: The flavor of raspberry jam sandwiched between two layers of peanut butter

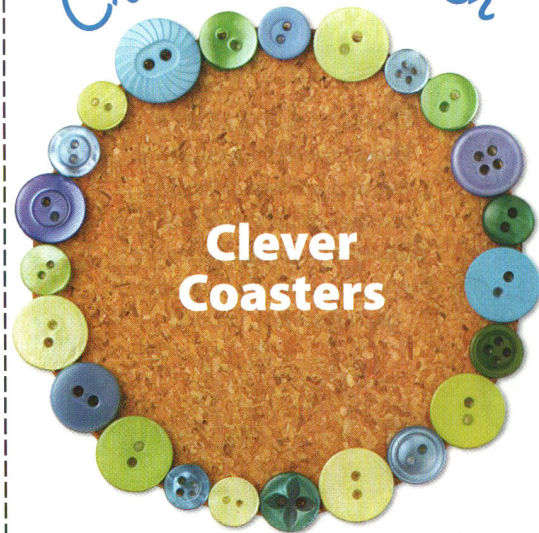
Caramel Apple Carnival Pop: A juicy apple-flavored core surrounded by a caramel coating

Rhiannon T., age 11

Hailey M., age 8

Sparkling Jewels Pop: A bubble-gum-flavored pop decked out with edible pink glitter

Creative Corner



Clever Coasters

Cut out card. Flip over for directions.

AG Poll

In our March/April issue, we asked you which new school supply got you most excited about going back to school. Here's what you said:

Backpack 143

Art supplies 67

Notebooks 66

Planner 44

Pens and pencils 30

Folders 28



Next question:

What's your favorite part of giving a gift? Circle your choice.

Choosing the gift	Keeping the secret
Wrapping the gift	Seeing the gift opened

Turn the page for a bonus poll!

Cut out your answer and mail it to us with your first and last name, address, and birth date.





Clever Coasters

These coasters are easy to make and will look great on a summer picnic table. Glue buttons around the edges of round cork coasters (available at craft stores). Let dry.



Photos: Mike Walker

AG Bonus Poll

Which quality describes you best?
Circle your choice.

Friendly	Creative
Smart	Brave
Kind	Spirited



AG Art Gallery

Let your imagination run wild this summer!



Beth C.
Age 12, Illinois



Nina C.
Age 12, Washington



Beatrice R.
Age 13, Colorado

We're looking for your **photos** for our art gallery. Send prints of photos that you've taken to the address on page 2. **Sorry**, we can't return entries.



Lindsey P.
Age 14, Minnesota

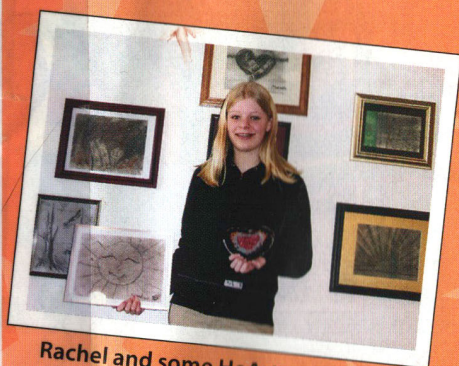


Shining Star ★

Rachel B. was scared when her family had to evacuate their California home as wildfires threatened their neighborhood. When the fires finally were put out, Rachel's house was still standing, but some homes had burned. Tons of trees and plants had burned, too. "Everything was totally black," Rachel says. "It was really sad."

The 14-year-old and her school wanted to do something to help repair the blackened land. Teachers started an after-school art program called HeArts for the Forest. Rachel and other students made drawings with ash and plants burned in the fire. They also created leaf printings, and they mixed ash with clay to make pottery. The students sold the artwork at art shows and fairs, with the money going to help the town replace the burned plants. In all, the heartfelt artwork raised about \$2,000 for new plants.

"I feel so happy helping out my community," Rachel says.



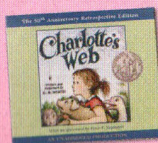
Rachel and some HeArts artwork

Do you shine, too?

Let us know what good works you're doing to make your world a better place. Send your story to the address on page 2.

Tell Me a Story

Books on tape or CD can make time fly in a whole new way. It can be fun to hear the stories out loud—even if you've already read the books!



Charlotte's Web

\$27 for CDs

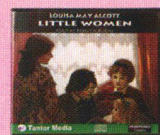


"I enjoyed listening to this audiobook on headphones. The thing I liked best was how the author, E.B. White, animated his voice while



reading. It's slow at the beginning, but you should keep listening because it gets better."

Erin D.
Age 13, Michigan



Little Women

\$45 for CDs



"I listened to this book on my computer, and the story was good. I liked how the voices changed for the characters



throughout the story. I didn't like how there were so many CDs—you get 16."

Jamie L.
Age 12, Maryland

Photos: Mike Walker

Double Talk

Play this game with a family member during a long car ride. You ask each question aloud, and then both players blurt out their answers at the same time. You might be surprised by each other's answers! When you've used up these questions, make up your own.

Would you rather listen to CDs or watch TV?

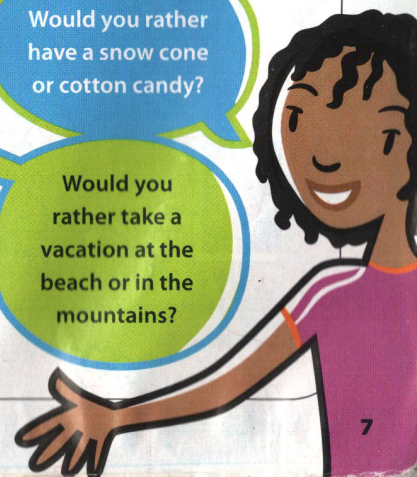
Would you rather have a pet monkey or a pet parrot?

Would you rather have a snow cone or cotton candy?

Which would you rather do in front of 100 people—sing or dance?

Would you rather do handstands in the pool or jump off the diving board?

Would you rather take a vacation at the beach or in the mountains?

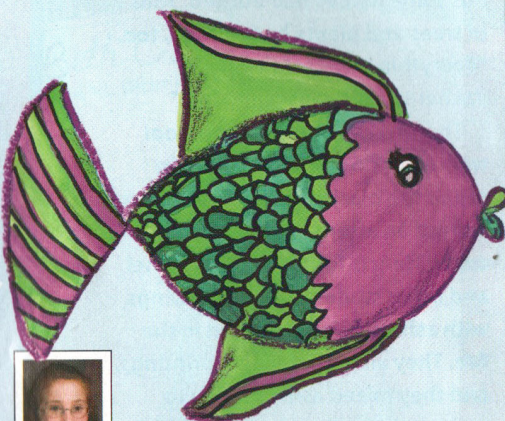


Splish Splash

We were swimming in the thousands of flashy fish you sent in!



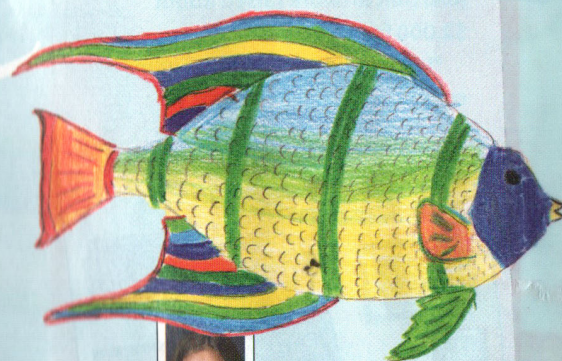
Lauren V.
Age 10, California



Natalie W.
Age 10, Pennsylvania



ALEXANDRA B.
Age 12, Pennsylvania



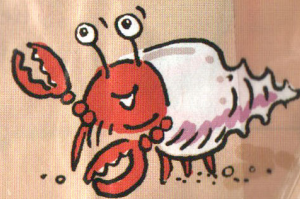
Gabby G.
Age 12, Florida



Lauren G.
Age 11, Michigan

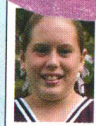


Mariah Z.
Age 11, Idaho

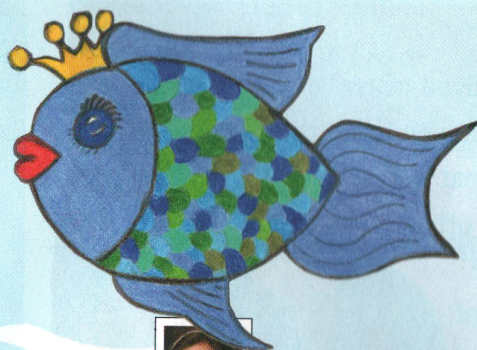




Ellora R.
Age 8, Massachusetts



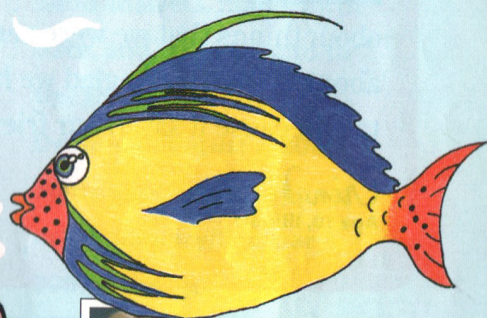
Jordan W.
Age 12, Georgia



Jaylor B.
Age 8, Florida



Katherine B.
Age 14, California

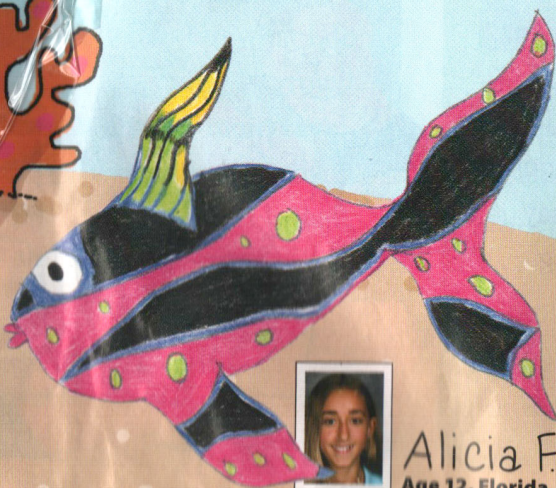


Anne R.
Age 13, Maine



New Contest: Paperless Valentines

Make a sweet valentine out of anything your heart desires—except paper. Pack your creation securely and send it to the address on page 2, along with your first and last name, address, and birth date. Deadline: August 10, 2006. Winners will appear in the January/February 2007 issue. Sorry, we can't return entries.



Alicia F.
Age 12, Florida

Teasing

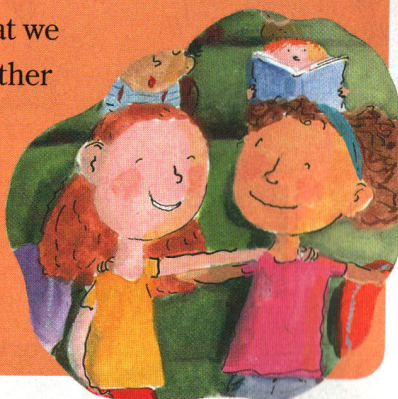
These readers share it all—times they were teased, times they did the teasing, and tips for putting an end to it.



Teasing almost destroyed my relationship with my best friend. One day on the bus we talked about it. We agreed that we would not tease each other

about things that we were sensitive about anymore. I'm glad we had that talk because it saved our friendship!

Erin M.
Age 10, Illinois



When I was in second grade, my friends and I used to

tease a boy who wasn't very good at math. We used to shout, "Hey, what's six plus six?" and then the other kids would laugh. Now that I am older, I feel very bad about it. Teasing is not O.K., and if you do it, you'll feel guilty too someday.

Billie Rose O.
Age 11, Vermont



I've been called "Four Eyes" because I wear glasses.

The first time it happened I talked to my teacher and she told me to say "Four eyes are better than two." So the next time someone called me that, I knew what to say.

Aubrey L.
Age 10, Wisconsin



Kids in my grade like to tease in good fun, but

sometimes it goes too far. We came up with "NJZ," which stands for No-Joke Zone. When teasing gets out of hand, we just say "NJZ" and the teasing stops immediately.

Lindsay C.
Age 12, Maryland





Sometimes
I get carried
away when
teasing and

end up hurting someone's
feelings. I've learned to
think things through be-
fore I say them and that has
made me a better friend.

Tayler J.

Age 12, California

Big Truth Teasing to hurt someone is never O.K.



I get teased a
lot because
I am short,
but what I do

is I say I'm going to grow
eventually. My mom says
that when someone teases
you, that person feels bad
about himself or herself.
I think that's true.

Madeleine K.

Age 13, California

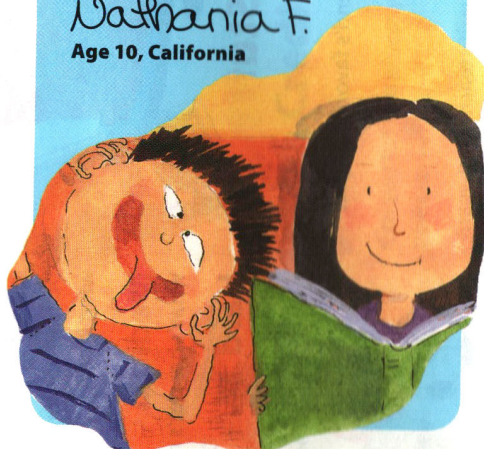


In my family
of six, I've
learned how
to put an end

to teasing. Just ignore the
person who is teasing you.
If you do that, the person
teasing will realize that he
or she isn't getting any-
body's attention and will
give up.

Nathania F.

Age 10, California



When a boy
in my class
wouldn't stop
teasing me,

my mom told me I should
let my teacher know. My
teacher put an end to it. If
someone won't stop teasing
you, tell a parent or another
adult about it.

Itteca K.

Age 10, New York

Speak from Your Heart

Next subject: Your favorite
way to cheer someone up.

What special thing do you
do for a friend or family
member who's blue? Do you
bake her a batch of her
favorite cookies? Do you
tuck a funny poem into her
bag? The more unique your
method is, the better!

Send answers, name, birth
date, and school photo to
the address on page 2.

Deadline: August 7, 2006.

Some answers will appear
in the January/February
2007 issue. ★



Friendship

Sit across from a friend. Answer each question about her

Birthday Business

Easy

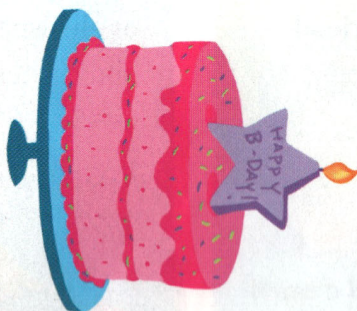
In what month was your friend born?

Medium

What is her birth date?

Hard

What town was she born in?



School Stuff

Easy

What's your friend's favorite subject in school?

Medium

Who was her favorite teacher last year?

Hard

What was her favorite project or unit last year?



Family Fun

Easy

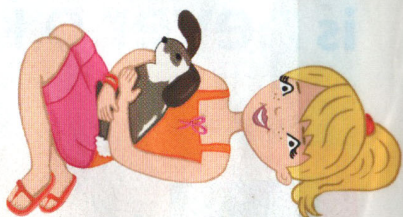
How many are in your friend's family?

Medium

Is she the oldest, middle, youngest, or only child?

Hard

What are her parents' first names?



Animal Answers

Easy

Does your friend have a pet? If so, what kind?

Medium

What's her pet's name?

Hard

Where did her pet come from?



Sports Stumpers

Easy

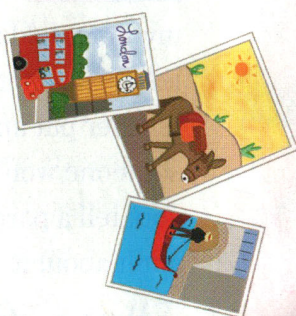
What sport does your friend like to play?

Medium

Did she ever play that sport on a team?

Hard

What position does she play?



Extra Credit

Hard

Can you list two places your friend has been on vacation?

Hard

Has your friend ever had to stay in the hospital overnight?

Hard

Can she speak another language?

Hard

What was your friend's favorite book or toy when she was three?

Hard

What does your friend want to be when she grows up?

Challenge

Don't feel bad if you don't know some of the answers—it just means there's lots left to learn about each other.

while she does the same about you. Then compare answers!

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In what month was your friend born?

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What is her birth date?

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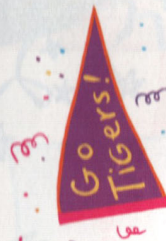
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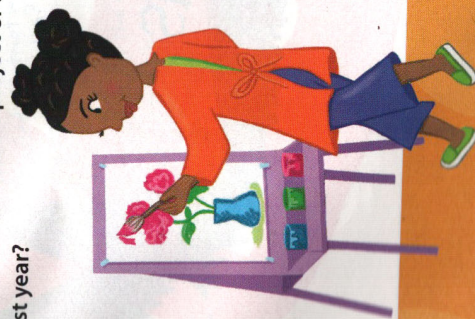
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Hard

What does your friend want to be when she grows up?

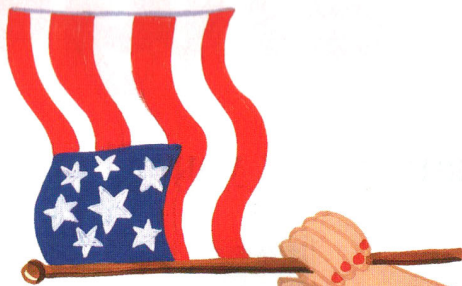
Hooray for the Fourth!

Show your American spirit from head to toe.



Star Style

Try this spangled style for your hair. Wrap silver or gold star wire around a headband. Securely wrap wire ends with tape. Be careful of sharp ends.



Spirit T

Give a plain T-shirt star power! Place a star cookie cutter on a piece of felt. Trace around the cookie cutter with a marker. Cut out the star shape. Lay the star shape on another piece of felt and cut around it to make a bigger star. Attach both stars to a T-shirt with a safety pin from the inside.

Patriotic Paint

Adorn your arms with bright designs. Use face paint to draw on your arms.



Parade Bag

Decorate an inexpensive gift bag with star stickers. Use it to hold the candy you catch.

Ribbon Belt

Add a splash of spirit to your pants or shorts. Thread colorful curling ribbon through your belt loops.

Sparkle and Shine

Catch a falling star on your flip-flops! Use jewel glue to attach star confetti to inexpensive flip-flops. Let dry.

Patriotic Pedicure

Paint your toenails the colors of the flag for the perfect finishing touch. ★

Bracelet Bands

Wear these bracelets with pride. For each bracelet, cut a strip of fun foam to fit around your wrist. Lay the foam flat and glue on rhinestones and confetti stars. Let dry. Attach a piece of double-sided foam tape to the foam and secure the bracelet on your wrist.

Tell these jokes on the Fourth!

What would you get if you crossed a patriot with a small curly-haired dog?
A Yankee Poodle

Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell?
Yeah, it cracked me up.



Fun in the Sun

Welcome summer
with a splash!



Chill Out

Cool off by soaking a
bandanna in cold water
and tying it on your head.

Spa Under the Sun

Set up a mini spa for cooling off. Fill pails with cool water for soaking hands and feet. Sit in a lawn chair under a sprinkler and stay cool.

Cup Crashdown

Set up pyramids using plastic cups. Give players squirt bottles and see who can knock down her cups first.

Dolphin Dip

Float hula hoops and pool noodles in a pool. Pretend to be a dolphin and swim in, out, and around the floating objects.

Floater Motor

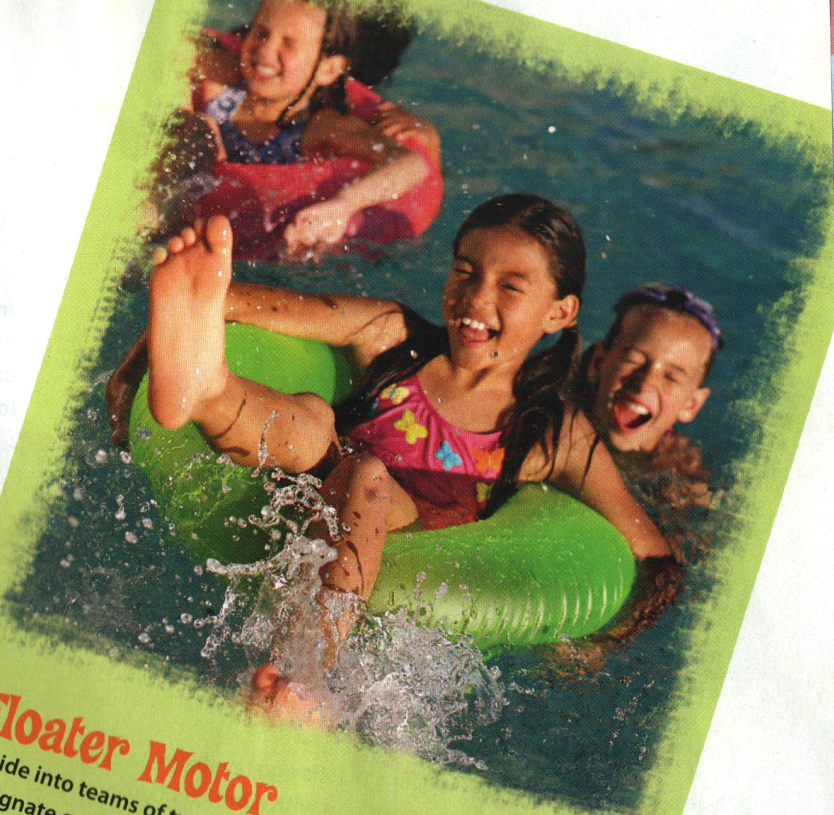
Divide into teams of two. Each team gets one inner tube. Designate one girl to be a "floater" (she sits in the inner tube) and the other girl to be the "motor" (she pushes the inner tube). On "go," the motor pushes the floater. Once they reach the end of the pool, they must switch positions and motor back. The first team to make it back to the starting point wins!

Carry the Water

Fill a large bucket with water. Give each girl a plastic cup and have her set it down on a designated spot in the yard. Place the bucket about 10 feet away from the line of cups. On "go," players must gather water by cupping their hands and "carrying" the water to their cups. The girl who has the most water in her cup after one minute is the winner.

Alpha-wet

Have a friend sit on a beach towel wearing her bathing suit. Use an ice cube to write a letter of the alphabet on her back. Have her guess the letter. If she's really good at guessing, write a word and see if she can guess that.





Cup-Cup-Splash!

Fill small water balloons. Have everyone sit in a line in the yard with a paper cup in her hands. The object is to pass one balloon from cup to cup without dropping it. If a player drops the balloon, she's out. (If the balloon breaks, grab another one.) Play continues until the balloon is being passed between only two players. The winner is the one who *doesn't* drop the balloon last.

Niiice!

Fill a plastic resealable freezer bag with cold water and some ice cubes. Put the bag on the back of your neck to cool off.

Sponge-scotch

Soak sponges in water and throw them as markers in a hopscotch course.

Egg-cellent!

Place a small waterproof object in a plastic egg (available at party supply stores). Toss the egg, along with a bunch of empty eggs, into the pool. On "go," everyone jumps into the pool and tries to find the egg with the object inside. If a player opens an egg and doesn't find the object, she must close the egg before opening a new one. The first one to find the object yells out "egg-cellent!" and gets a point. The game begins again and continues until one player gets 5 points.

Jellyfish!

This game can be played all day long. Choose a person to be "It." Players start swimming around the pool. When It yells "jellyfish!" players must swim to the side of the pool as fast as they can without getting tagged. If a player is tagged, she is the next It. If no one gets tagged, It yells "The coast is clear!" and players can continue swimming around until the jellyfish strikes again!

Jump In, Kangaroo!

Have players stand at the edge of the deep end of the pool. Designate one girl to be the caller. She calls out an animal name as other players jump into the pool. Players must act like the animal being called out as they jump into the pool.





Frisbee Walk

Have a competition to see who can balance a Frisbee on her head the longest while getting sprayed from behind! Two players start walking with Frisbees on their heads. Another player sprays them. The first girl to drop her Frisbee is out. Rotate players so that each person has a chance to balance the Frisbee on her head. No spraying in the face!



Splash Toss

Set up a line of pails filled with water. The first girl tries to toss a small ball into the closest pail. If the ball goes into the pail, she takes another ball and tosses it into the next closest pail. She continues playing until she misses a pail. Each girl gets a chance to go. The girl who gets the most balls into the pails wins!

S.P.O.N.G.E.

Give each player a number and choose one person to be "It." It throws a wet sponge high in the air and calls out a number. The players scatter except for the player whose number was called. She grabs the sponge and yells "sponge!" Players must freeze. It takes two giant steps toward a player and throws the sponge at her. The target girl can dodge the sponge, but cannot move her feet. If she gets hit, she gets an "S" and is It. If It misses the target, It gets an "S" and is It again. Play begins again and continues until one player gets all the letters in "SPONGE."

Wave Pool

Each player is given a Ping-Pong ball. On "go," players start pushing the Ping-Pong balls across the shallow end of the pool. The trick? Players cannot grab onto the balls. They must only push them with their hands or create waves to make the balls move. Whoever gets her ball to the opposite side of the pool first is the winner.

Swimmer Says

Play this twist on Simon Says in the pool. Have "Swimmer" stand on the edge of the pool and call out commands. If a player does something that Swimmer didn't "say," then that player is out. Continue playing until one player is left. Rotate until each girl gets to be Swimmer.



Water Blob

See how long the water blob can stay together! Have everyone get into her own inner tube. The object of this game is to have players float together in a "blob" while passing the ball to each other. If a player floats away, the blob must continue without her until there are only two players remaining in the blob. Whoever has the ball when the final blob ends is the winner.

Water Ball

Have everyone get into her own inner tube. Divide into two teams. Play begins when one team tries to get a beach ball to the goal (one end of the pool) without being tagged. If a player is tagged by the opposing team while the ball is in her hands, the ball goes into the other team's possession and they must try to get the ball to their goal. The team with the most goals is the winner.

Aqua-palooza

What's the easiest way to spend a super hot day? Fill buckets of water with sponges, fill water balloons and squirt bottles, and invite your friends over to get wet! ★



Quiz

Test Your Wedding Wisdom

Are you the bother of the bride?

Take this quiz to see if your wedding manners need polish.

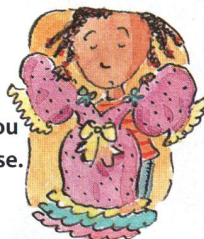


1. You can't believe it—your brother was asked to be in your aunt's wedding, and you weren't! You . . .

- a.** beg your mom to get you in. It's only fair.
- b.** tell your aunt how hurt you feel.
- c.** try your best to be a good sport.

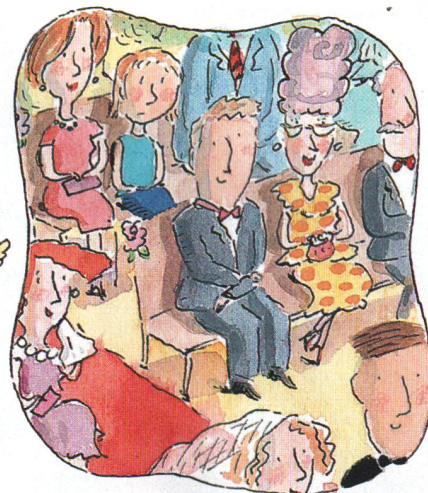
2. Your cousin's picked out the dress she wants you to wear in her wedding. You hate it! You . . .

- a.** calmly explain that pink isn't your best color.
- b.** ask your mom if you can wear something else.
- c.** grin and wear it.



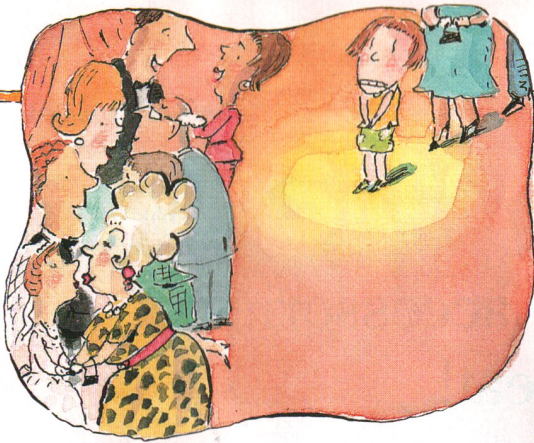
3. You're a junior bridesmaid in your sister's wedding. You've been standing for pictures for hours, and the cameras are still clicking! You . . .

- a.** decide to sit out the next round.
- b.** think of your best joke and smile—one more time.
- c.** make bunny ears behind the flower girl to liven things up.



4. You're at a wedding with your parents. The bride and groom belong to a different religion than you, and you don't understand some parts of the ceremony. You . . .

- a.** listen and watch what's going on.
- b.** whisper questions to the people around you.
- c.** play Rock, Scissors, Paper with your little sister.



5. You're going through the receiving line. The guests ahead of you are chatting with everyone—even hugging and kissing. There's just one problem: you don't know anyone but the bride! You . . .

a. step out of the line. No one will miss you anyway.

b. ignore everyone except the bride.

c. smile and introduce yourself to each person.

6. Hooray! It's time for the first dance, and the band is playing your favorite song! You can't wait to show off your latest moves. Best of all, the dance floor is empty! You . . .

a. rush onto the floor. It's time to boogie!

b. ask the groom to dance with you.

c. wait until the next song to dance.

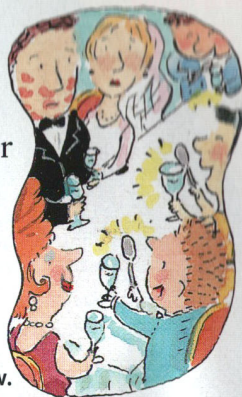


7. At the reception, you and your cousins are clinking glasses with your spoons, trying to make the happy couple kiss . . . again. Mom's giving you a stern look. You . . .

a. put down your spoon—now.

b. keep clinking. One more smooch will make 50!

c. start a new party game. Who can eat the most cake?



Answers

1c. Couples usually have to limit the number of people in their wedding, even if there are others they'd like to include. Asking your mom to get you a part could be embarrassing. Try to be a gracious guest—some people say it's more fun to be *at* a wedding than *in* one, anyway!

2c. This is your cousin's day, not yours. Saying you hate the dress will hurt her feelings, and wearing something else could make you clash with the others. Zip your lip and the dress—and remember, you'll probably never have to wear it again!

3b. Your family will treasure these photos, so don't ruin them by clowning around or refusing to cooperate. Think of a funny joke and smile! Take quick breaks by relaxing between poses.

4a. Ask questions later. During the ceremony, watch and listen quietly. If guests are invited to participate, notice what others are doing and follow their lead.

5c. Don't step aside just because you feel tongue-tied! Smile and say, "Hi, I'm Liz, the bride's niece. Wasn't it a great wedding!" Congratulate the bride and groom. Keep your greetings short so others can have a turn.

6c. The first dance is always for the bride and groom. Save your fancy steps for later!

7a. Clinking glasses over and over again makes noise, bothers other guests, and embarrasses the couple. It's O.K. to be merry when two people marry—just don't get too carried away! ★

Dinky Doodads

Make some sweet ^{ant-sized!} accessories that you can eat!

by Julia A. Monroe

Flip-flops

Go ahead and put these shoes on the table! Lay a sheet of **Fruit Roll-Up** on wax paper. Place 2 **Nutter Butter** cookies on the Roll-Up, and cut around them with a **toothpick**. Spread **icing** on the cookie top, then lay the fruit cutout over it. Press the sheet edges down to smooth them. For straps, stick **candy straws** on with icing. Decorate with **sprinkles**.



More great ideas can be found in the book *Tiny Treats*.

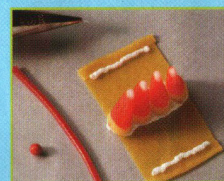
Perfumes

Your friends will love this sweet gift! Dab **icing** on different **candies** with a **toothpick** to create perfume bottles.



Coin Purse

Use this "corn" purse for small shopping trips. Stick a 3-by-1½-inch piece of **wax paper** to a **Fruit Roll-Up sheet** and cut around it with **scissors**. Remove the wax paper. Fold in each end of the cutout ¼ inch. Add **icing** and **candy corn**, as shown. Slip in a **licorice string**. Fold up the sides. Add a **red candy button snap** with icing. ★

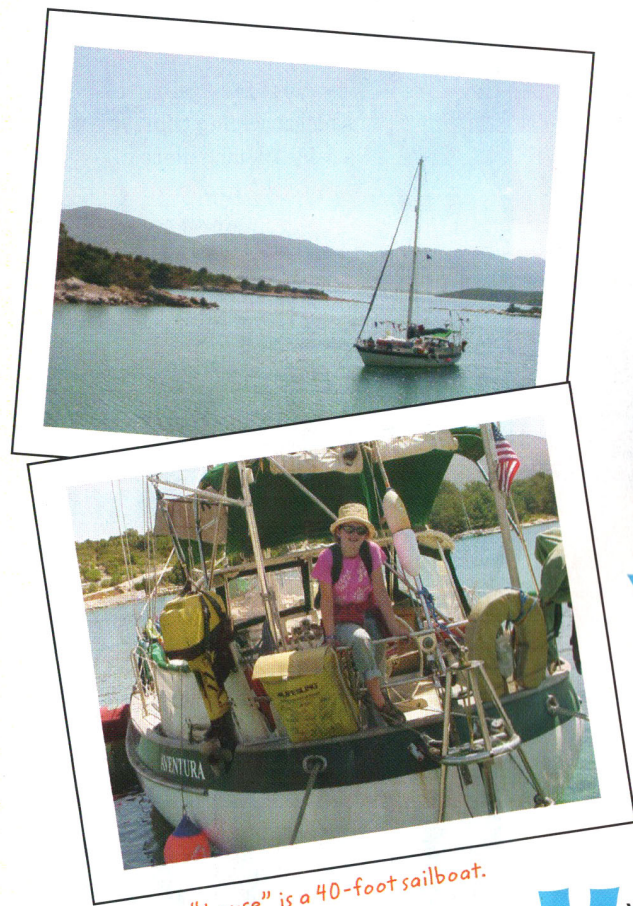


Spring Bonnets

✎ Bring a splash of color to your table. Ask an **adult** to cut the bottom off an **ice-cream cone** with a **paring knife**. Stick the cone bottom to a **vanilla wafer cookie** with **icing**. Decorate with **icing**, **sprinkles**, **Fruit Roll-Up sheets**, and **candies**.



My Life on the Water

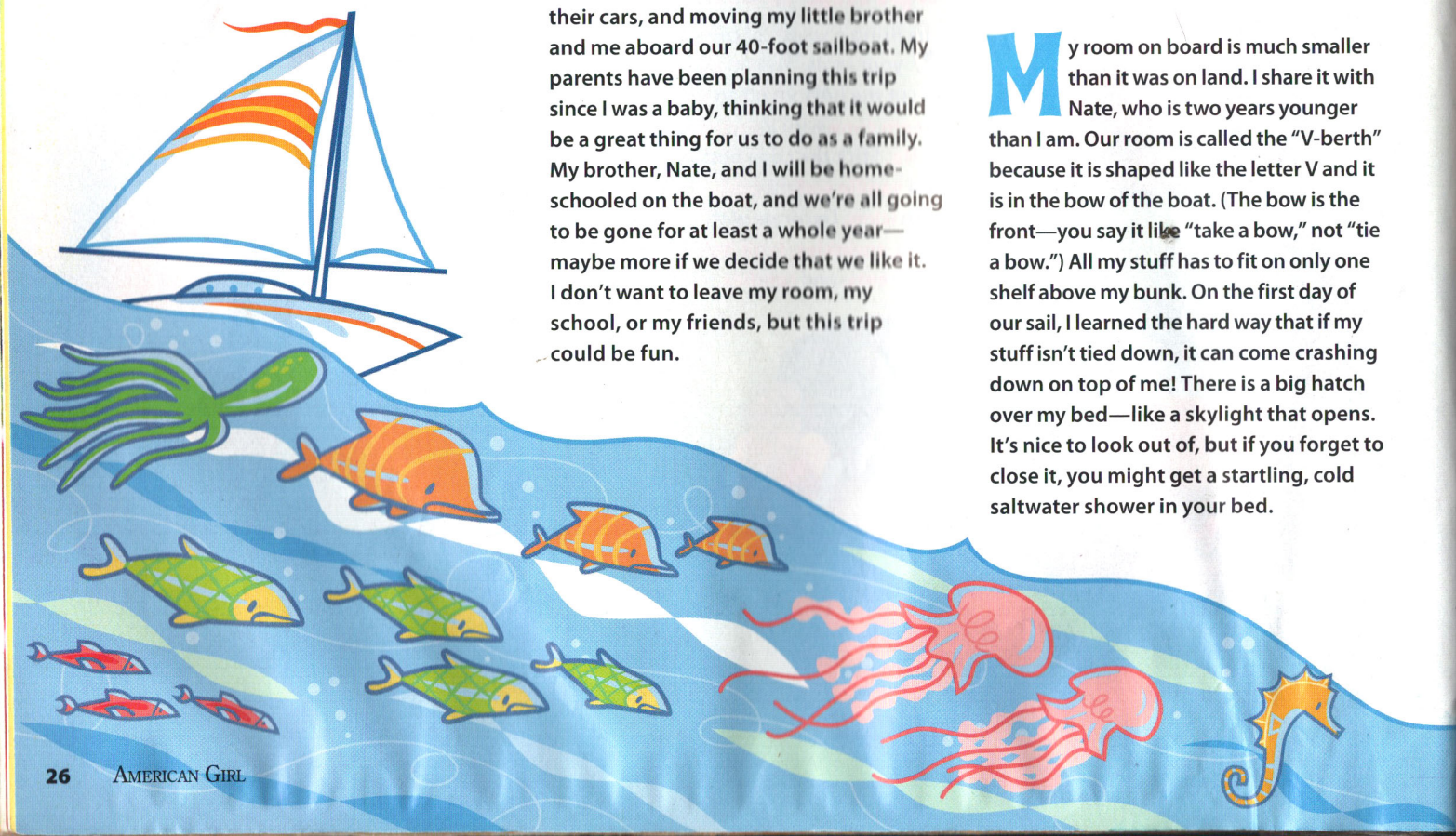


Our new "house" is a 40-foot sailboat.

My family is going to live on a sailboat. After I finish third grade, my parents are renting out our house, leaving their jobs, selling their cars, and moving my little brother and me aboard our 40-foot sailboat. My parents have been planning this trip since I was a baby, thinking that it would be a great thing for us to do as a family. My brother, Nate, and I will be home-schooled on the boat, and we're all going to be gone for at least a whole year—maybe more if we decide that we like it. I don't want to leave my room, my school, or my friends, but this trip could be fun.

Our boat is called *Aventura*. The name means "adventure" in Spanish, which I guess describes our new life at sea.

My room on board is much smaller than it was on land. I share it with Nate, who is two years younger than I am. Our room is called the "V-berth" because it is shaped like the letter V and it is in the bow of the boat. (The bow is the front—you say it like "take a bow," not "tie a bow.") All my stuff has to fit on only one shelf above my bunk. On the first day of our sail, I learned the hard way that if my stuff isn't tied down, it can come crashing down on top of me! There is a big hatch over my bed—like a skylight that opens. It's nice to look out of, but if you forget to close it, you might get a startling, cold saltwater shower in your bed.



Belle D. left her life in Massachusetts for a three-year adventure on the high seas. Her travel journal brings you aboard with her.

One of the greatest things about living on a boat is getting visited by dolphins. The first time we saw them was when we were heading to the Bahamas. We had about 20 dolphins with us! I normally am the first to hear their squeaks, whistles, and clicks. I shout "Dolphins!" and we all run up to see them. They always make us smile. The dolphins jump and splash and take turns riding the wave that forms under the bow. They seem at ease when we move quickly, and they never visit when we are going slowly. We try to take pictures of the dolphins, but they move like lightning.

The Bahamas has been one of my favorite spots so far. It is a chain of islands located near Florida. The islands have pink sand, clear water, coral reefs, tropical fish, and nice people.

We snorkeled in Thunderball Cave. It was creepy because I had to hold my breath and swim out of an underwater tunnel to get out of the cave. By the entrance to the cave, hundreds of fish swarmed around us, so close that they bumped me all over.

A long passage is when we sail for at least 24 hours without stopping. During the day my parents take turns taking naps, and at night they take turns standing watch to make sure we stay

on course and that everything is O.K. as we sail. Mom stands watch till midnight, and I help her until about 10 P.M. Then Dad stands watch until morning.

Some days, if it is calm, Dad will shout, "Swim call!" We rush into our suits, and then we stop the boat and jump overboard. When we swim in the middle of the ocean, I can't help thinking about all of those things deep down below us. Good thing I've never fallen overboard! Still, I'm never afraid to sail, even in bad weather. I'm not scared of storms because I know that they will pass.



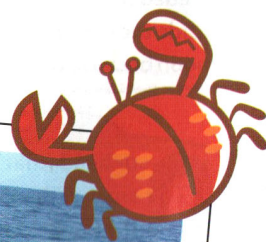
Sometimes we meet up with other cruisers during our trip.



I love to read on the boom, which is the part of the sailboat that lets you control the sail.



Look! Dolphins!





My mom and I are working in our galley, which is what we call the kitchen.



I'm talking on the radio to other kids who are crossing the Atlantic.



I was so excited to see land after 16 days and 16 nights of pushing flying fish off the deck while crossing the Atlantic in our sailboat. It was night when we set anchor in the Azores, a group of volcanic islands that belongs to Portugal. The birds that rested in the cliffs made horrible screeching noises all night long! We saw

and I now can go for days without showers. We can't do laundry very often, either, so I'll wear the same shirt for several days. We try not to dirty too many dishes because we can't just turn on the tap and have as much fresh water as we want. It's not a big deal—we just live a different way now.

It has been wonderful to spend so much time with my family.

so many pink jellyfish in the water there. It looked like you could walk on them.

Later, from the marina, we could see the giant volcano Pico. Dad decided that we needed to hike it. We ate our PB&J dinner inside the crater. It felt like we were on the moon because there was no vegetation.

Our head (that's the bathroom) is smaller than the average closet. My family calls me a "head hog" because I spend too much time in there brushing my hair! To flush the toilet, you have to pump it 25 times. To take a bath at sea, we suds up on deck and then jump overboard, rinsing off later with a little bit of fresh water.

I might have thought this sounded weird before I lived on a boat, but my family

We are now in Fiumicino (Fyoo-mee-chee-no), which is outside of Rome, Italy. *Aventura* is tied up to the wall of the Tevere Canal. The canal was built in the year 100 A.D. Lots of things in Rome are even older than that. It's like walking through ancient history.

One day we were walking around Rome, and we saw the ruins of some temples. There were hundreds of cats running around. A lady told us that it was a cat sanctuary and that abandoned cats go there to get fed and adopted. We went down and played with the cats. I'd love to have a cat on our boat.

Getting in and out of Rome is confusing because there are many different buses and trains. But I've learned some Italian so that I can talk to

people and try to make them understand what I'm saying. It used to be hard for me to talk to adults, but now it's a lot easier because I've had to do it so much. People really seem to appreciate it when an American girl tries to learn and speak their language, even if I don't say things quite right. They'll correct me and then teach me some new things.

When we lived in America, it was so easy to get whatever food we wanted when we wanted it. Now, grocery shopping can take the entire day. We have to leave the boat in a safe place, make sure we have the right kind of money for the place we're visiting, find a grocery store, and try to read the store signs. You never know what foods the stores will have. When you're finally done shopping, you have to haul the food all the way back to the boat and pack it away. It's a lot different from life in the U.S., when I could tell my mom that I wanted my favorite kind of cheese, for example, and she could find that cheese in every store.

I spent my 11th birthday in Turkey. It's definitely my favorite place we've visited. We ended our schoolwork for the year and took a vacation there. It was



Here are my dad and me at a mosque in Turkey.





Our cat, Ayvy, is so much fun, whether he's chasing the flying fish that come aboard or "helping" with my schoolwork.



I'm steering the boat with my foot!

warm and pretty, and the people were really friendly. I loved the call to prayer, in which a beautiful song plays, telling Muslims that it's time to pray. I know that the outdoor markets in Turkey, with all their exotic goods for sale and the rich scent of spices in the air, will be my strongest, most favorite memory.

Also in Turkey, we got a cat! He was the most beautiful little kitten. We found him under a table at a café. He loves it

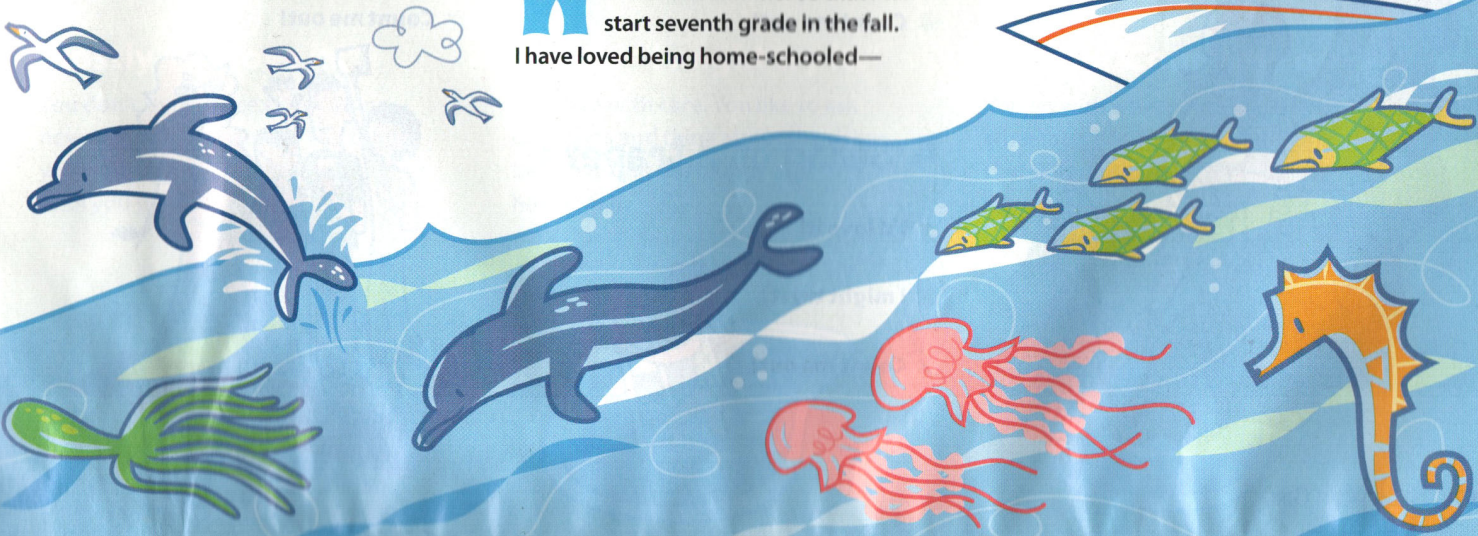
when flying fish land on the boat—he gets to eat as many as he wants! His name is Ayvalik, after the town where we got him. We call him Ayvy for short—we say it like "ivy." He's very cute and curious. I think he likes life on the boat because everything is in constant motion.

My brother and I still have chores. We sweep the floor and wipe the table. After sailing for the day, I always put the sail cover on the sail. I'm also in charge of anchoring the boat. I pick out a good spot and use hand signals to tell whichever parent is driving which way to steer and how fast to go so that we get to the spot. Then I lower the anchor and make sure that it hits a sand patch. It's an important job because if the anchor doesn't hold, we'll float away.

We're moving back to the United States this summer so that I can start seventh grade in the fall. I have loved being home-schooled—

classes take half as long as at regular school!—and it has been wonderful to spend so much time with my family. Sometimes I've needed some alone time to cool off, but I can't remember what we ever argued about. Even though we're family, we have become very good friends.

I don't think I'll realize how much I've changed until I go back to a normal, ordinary middle school and look back at where I've been and what I've done. I'm 12 years old, and I've lived on a sailboat for three of those years. I've seen beautiful things and learned new languages and cultures. I've figured out the things that I can't live without—music, books, and my needlepoint projects—and the things that I don't need, like TV, a daily shower, and a ton of clothes. I'll love being back in my old room and seeing all the friends that I left behind in Massachusetts. But most of all, I'll love all the memories of my life on the water. I can't wait to see where my next adventure takes me. ★



DO YOU DARE?

How adventurous are you? For each activity, circle whether you would love to do it, might be willing to try it, or would rather steer clear of it.

1. Explore a cave

* I'd love it!

☒ I might try it.

* Count me out!

2. Climb a volcano

* I'd love it!

☒ I might try it.

* Count me out!



3. Audition for the lead role in a musical

☒ I'd love it!

* I might try it.

* Count me out!

4. Swing on a trapeze

* I'd love it!

☒ I might try it.

* Count me out!

5. Introduce myself to a person who speaks another language

* I'd love it!

☒ I might try it.

* Count me out!

6. Ask someone famous for her autograph

☒ I'd love it!

* I might try it.

* Count me out!





7. Try an unfamiliar type of food

- * I'd love it!
- * I might try it.
- ☒ Count me out!

8. Go white-water rafting

- ☒ I'd love it!
- * I might try it.
- * Count me out!

9. Hold an iguana

- * I'd love it!
- ☒ I might try it.
- * Count me out!

10. Spend a year on a boat

- ☒ I'd love it!
- * I might try it.
- * Count me out!



11. Camp in the forest without a tent

- ☒ I'd love it!
- * I might try it.
- * Count me out!

12. Swim in a deep lake

- ☒ I'd love it!
- ☒ I might try it.
- * Count me out!

Results

Mostly "I'd love it!"

You don't think twice about doing new and different things. You figure you won't know if you like something until you try it.



Mostly "I might try it."

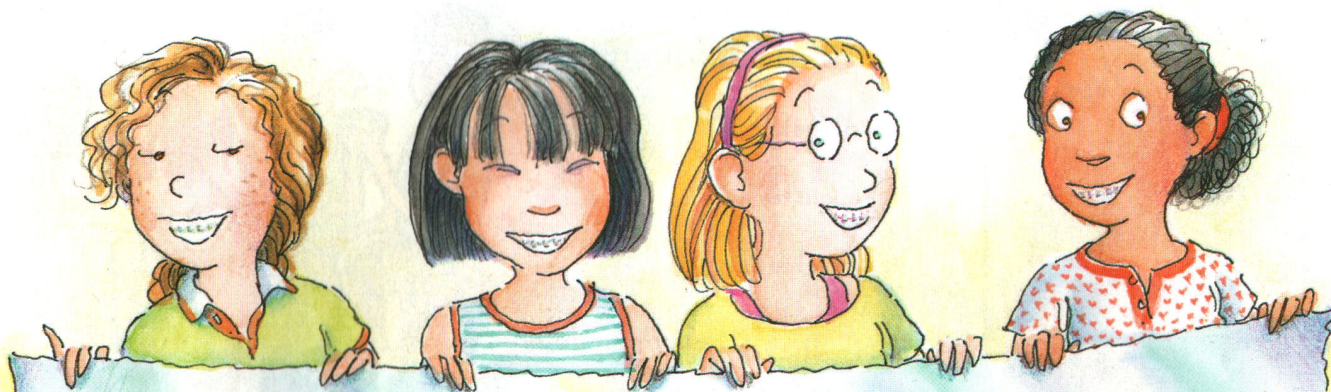
You dare with care. You like to ask questions and think about the risks before taking the plunge and having fun.



Mostly "Count me out!"

You go with what you know and do what feels comfortable. Just remember that doing something new can be fun, too! ★





Metal Matters!

Are you getting braces, or just trying to live with them?
We'll banish your biggest braces worries and
tell some tin-grin truths.

Myth: My teeth will hurt all the time!

Truth: Your mouth will be sore for a week or two after you get braces, and you'll probably be a little uncomfortable every time the braces are adjusted. But many modern braces are designed to minimize pain. And besides, it's a great excuse to make a sweet, frosty treat. Try this ice-cream concoction to soothe your sore mouth:


Soothing Shake

2 scoops vanilla ice cream

½ cup milk

2 tablespoons honey

Sprinkle of cinnamon

 Ask an adult to blend ingredients. Then sip and smile! **Tip:** Warm the honey before blending by running the container under warm water.

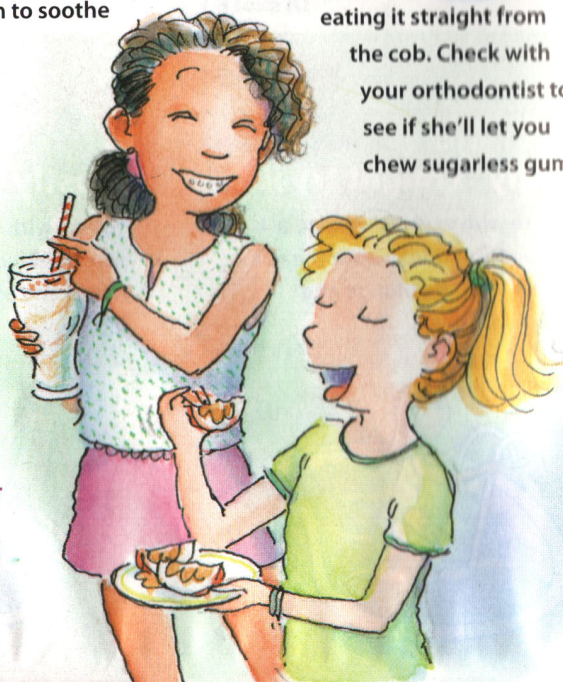
Myth: I have to give up all my favorite treats when I get my braces!

Truth: Sure, you have to give up sticky gum, crunchy candies, and other brace-busting foods. But apple slices dipped in caramel taste just as good as a candy apple, and corn off the cob is as sweet and yummy as eating it straight from the cob. Check with your orthodontist to see if she'll let you chew sugarless gum.



Myth: I can't play sports or a musical instrument when I have braces!

Truth: You can still do almost everything you did before braces. Just wear a mouth guard when you play sports, and try not to get hit in the mouth—that hurts a lot anyway, but it can hurt more when you have braces. If you play an instrument such as the flute or trumpet, you'll have to get used to playing with braces. But plastic lip protectors that fit over your braces can help make your playing pain-free. Play away!



Myth: My braces will set off metal detectors!

Truth: O.K., that could happen.

But it probably won't, especially if you don't wear headgear during the day.

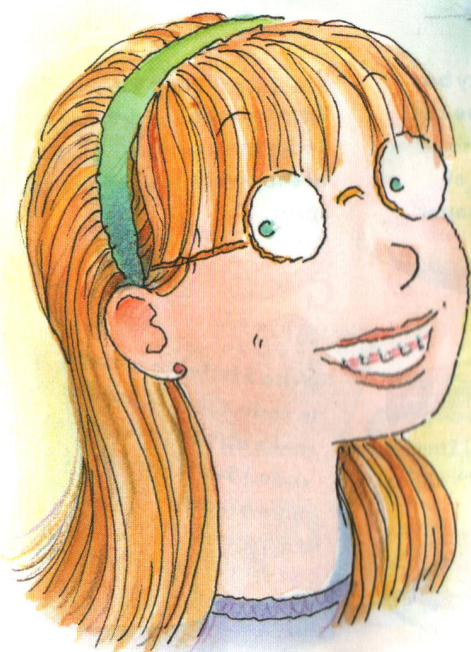
Big earrings, glasses with metal rims, or a soda can are just as likely—if not more likely—to set off a metal detector.

And if you get beeped because of your braces, just grin and bear it.

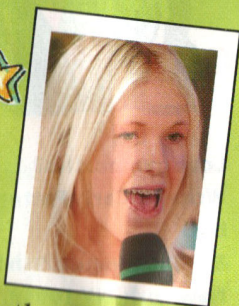


Myth: I'll look dumb with braces on my teeth.

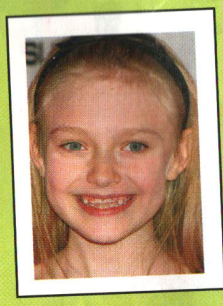
Truth: Having braces isn't exactly loads of fun, but braces are a lot better than they used to be. A rainbow of rubber bands and glow-in-the-dark retainers make braces more fun, and some types of braces are made to look like you're not even wearing any at all. Remember, a smile is a beautiful thing, no matter whether it's silver or white. And just think about how great you'll look when you're done!



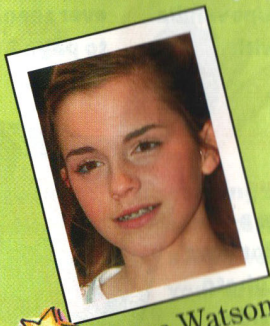
Some Silvery Stars



Bethany Hamilton



Dakota Fanning



Emma Watson



Ally S.
age 12, Illinois

A True Tin Tale

I was happy to get braces because I really wanted to have straight teeth. It was kind of weird to have the braces put on, but I knew what was coming because my friends who have braces told me a lot about it.

When you get braces, the orthodontist cleans your teeth, dries them (this takes a really long time), and uses a device to hold your mouth open. Then you get the brackets glued on and the wire put in. If I do everything that I'm supposed to do and follow all of the rules, I should get my braces off right on schedule.

The worst part so far has been not being able to have some of the foods that I like, such as sticky candy. The best part is knowing that I will have straight teeth when the braces come off. ★

Each person's bite mark is unique, just like her fingerprints. That's true even for twins!

TO DO

Say good-bye to boredom. We've got 38 fun ideas to keep you busy this summer!

Sunday

Today is the halfway point of the year. Make a list of things you want to do or accomplish before 2007.



2

Have a house-to-house barbecue with some of the neighborhood kids. Have chips and dip at one house, hot dogs at another, and s'mores somewhere else!



9

Celebrate **National Ice Cream Day** with an ice-cream soda. Pour 2-3 tablespoons chocolate syrup and a little club soda in a glass. Stir. Add 2 scoops vanilla ice cream. Fill glass with more club soda.

16

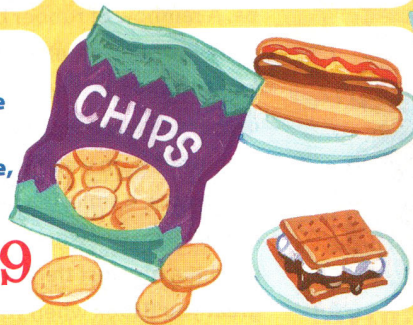
The 23rd is **Gorgeous Grandma Day!** Make a cute picture frame for your grandma and put a photo of the two of you inside.

23/30

Monday

Put together an activity box to keep you busy in the car. Include some electronic travel games, a book of Sudoku, and a pad of paper with colored pencils.

3



Enter to win a backpack full of the coolest school supplies you've ever seen. Go to page 2 for details.

WIN IT!

17



24/31

Tuesday

It's Independence Day!

Turn to page 14 for ways to show your spirit.

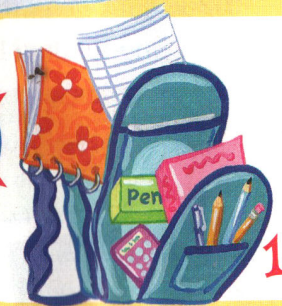


4

Write a letter to a friend in code. (Skip vowels or make up your own secret code.) See if she can figure it out!

D**r J*nn*,
Y**r* th*b*st fr**nd *v*r!
L*v*, S*r*h

11



18

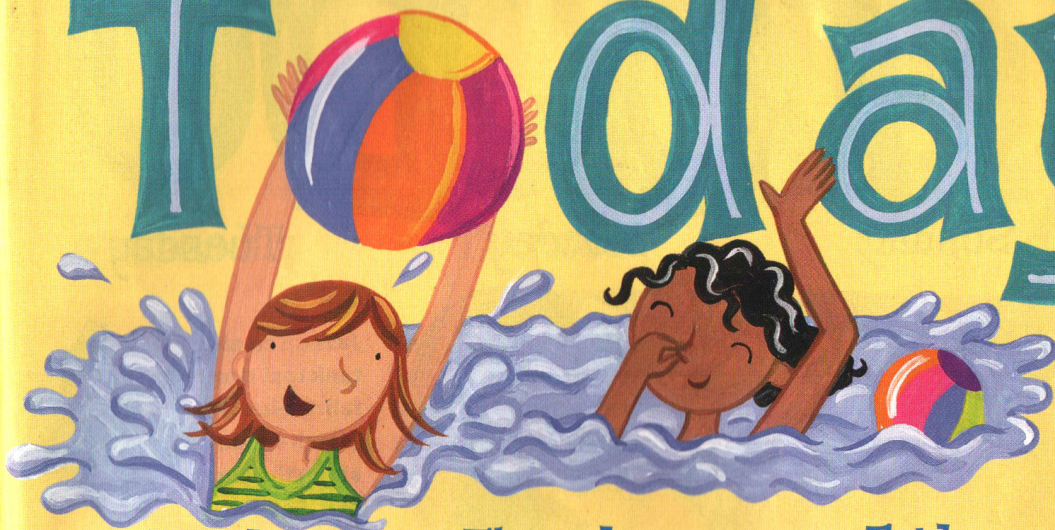
Love gymnastics? Write to Carly Patterson at IMG
835 7th Avenue, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10019.



J
U
L
Y

Today

Saturday



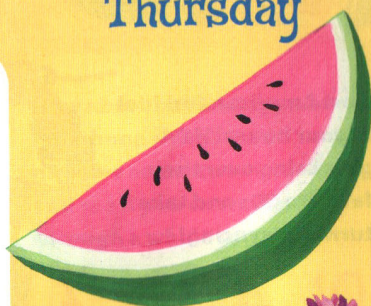
Head to the pool with your siblings and see who can make the biggest splash when jumping in. Who can make the tiniest splash?

1

Wednesday

Talk to your book-loving pals and pick a book that you all agree to read by the time summer is over.

Thursday



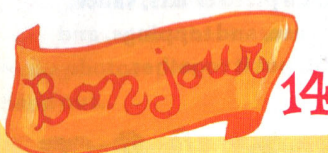
Friday

Cool off with this icy treat. Have a parent or an adult help you cut watermelon into one-inch cubes, freeze, and enjoy.



How about organizing a neighborhood kickball game? Invite the parents to play, too!

It's **Bastille Day**, France's independence day. Have croissants for breakfast to celebrate.



Grab your brother or sister and clean out the toy chest. Donate the toys you don't play with anymore to a local charity or shelter.

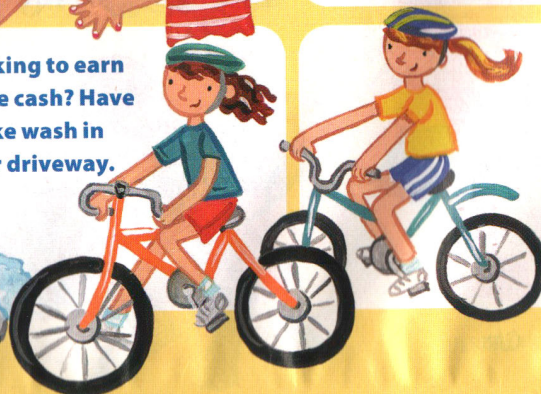
Ask your mom if you can paint your little sister's nails for her. Let her pick as many colors as she wants!



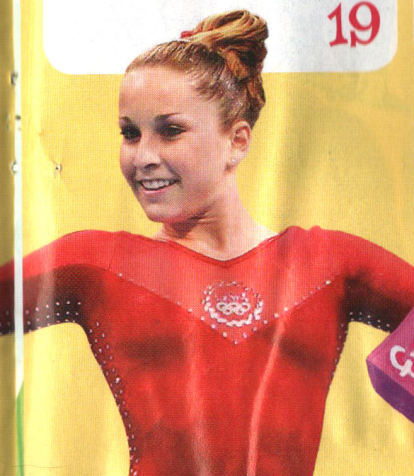
Write a ghost story with your family to tell around a campfire. You write the first paragraph and pass it along, so your family members can add to it. Then, read it aloud in your spookiest voice!

Take a break from the heat and watch your favorite wintertime movies. Snow is a must!

Looking to earn some cash? Have a bike wash in your driveway.



29



TO DO

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

AUGUST



In honor of **Sisters' Day**, draw a portrait of your sister (or a friend you love like a sister). Have her draw one of you.

6

Host **American Girl Idol** at your house! Have girls bring over their favorite CDs and take turns lip-synching!

7

Jazz up an old tank top. Use fabric glue to attach sequins along the neck of it. Let dry.



1



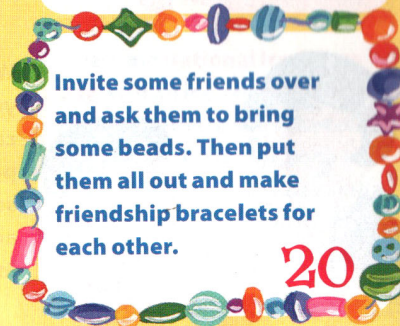
Ask your mom if you can help with dinner tonight. Have her buy some pre-made pizza crusts, sauce, cheese, and toppings, and **YOU** put it together.

13



Grab your markers and get started on AG's color-in poster.

15

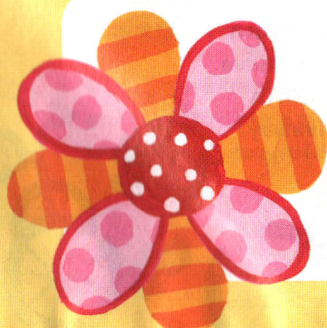


Invite some friends over and ask them to bring some beads. Then put them all out and make friendship bracelets for each other.

20

It's **Poet's Day**. Write your own poem—about a friend, a tree, your mom, the sea... Be sure to sign and date it!

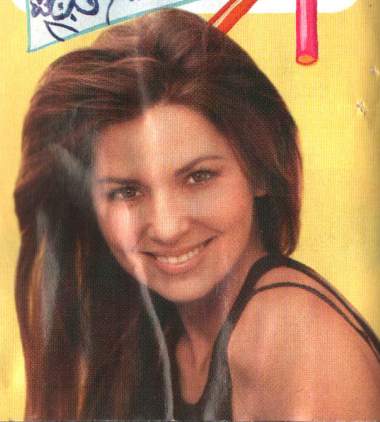
21



27

It's **Shania Twain's birthday!** Send her your birthday wishes.
Shania Twain Official Fan Club
P.O. Box 1911
Charlottesville, VA
22903

28



Today

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

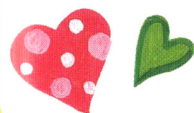
Saturday



2



Show your love. Enter AG's Paperless Valentines contest. Turn to page 9 for details.



9

Check out a DVD or book on sign language at the library and teach yourself how to sign some words. Try to spell your name, too.

16



Enjoy one of the last days of summer vacation by eating all of your meals outside at the picnic table. ★

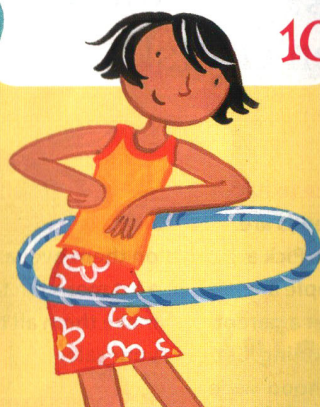
30

Try something new today. Taste a food you normally wouldn't touch or style your hair in a different way.

3

How about practicing your hula-hoop skills? Turn on some music to twist to and see if you can make it through a whole song!

10



Pretend you own a bubble-gum company and create five new flavors with clever names. How about Perfectly Peachy Pizzazz?

11

Use graph paper to make a word search from your family's names and nicknames. Fill in names first, then fill the rest in with other letters. Make photocopies to hand out.

18

It's **National Mustard Day!** Make some honey mustard by mixing together equal parts honey and mustard. Adjust to taste. Then dip in a soft pretzel!

5



Get some neighborhood kids together and put on a talent show—include dancers, singers, magicians, or anyone else who can do something cool or clever!

19

Happy birthday, Rachael Ray! Decorate (and eat!) a cupcake today in Rachael's honor!

25

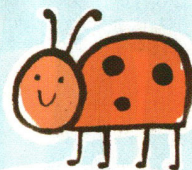


31

Celebrate **National Dog Day** by treating your four-legged friend to a nice long walk!

26





Summer Craft Sale

People will go buggy over these adorable garden crafts!

Craft Fair Basics

*** Ask a friend to do the craft sale with you.** Decide which crafts you'll make. Then split the cost of the supplies, split the work, and split the profits, too!

*** Think of a good time to have your craft sale.** Weekends are better than weekdays. Pick a time when lots of people are likely to be out, and let a parent know what you're planning. Set up during a neighborhood-wide garage sale or garden walk, and you'll have plenty of customers.

*** Make sure your prices are fair.** If you ask too much, no one will buy your crafts. If you ask too little, you won't make any profit. A good rule of thumb is to figure out how much it costs to make each craft, then double that amount to get the minimum price you should ask.

*** Give yourself enough time to make all the crafts.** Working on them over a week or two is a lot more fun than trying to make them all the night before your sale.

*** Supplies to make these crafts can be found at low prices at hardware stores, gardening centers, discount stores, and craft stores.** Sometimes you can find items sold in bulk, which is cheaper when you are making a lot of items.

*** To print out cute price tags for your goods, go to Fun for Girls at americangirl.com and click on "A Smart Girl's Guide to Money printables."**



Tweet Treat

Make a mini bird feeder. Poke a little hole in the bottom of a paper cup. Loop a piece of yarn and tie the ends in a big knot. Thread the top of the loop through the bottom of the cup to create the hanger for the feeder. Add a piece of strong tape over the yarn loop inside of the cup to secure the hanger. Cover the cup with a layer of peanut butter and roll in birdseed. Place the cup in a clear bag (packs of clear bags are available at craft and party stores). Tie top with a curling ribbon.



Cost: \$1.00

Sell: \$3.00

Profit: \$2.00



Cost: \$.50

Sell: \$1.00

Profit: \$.50

Cute Creatures

These little guys will make any garden come to life. Glue wooden shapes to wide craft sticks to create butterflies and bugs. Decorate with paint and googly eyes. Let dry.

Garden Greetings

Send a little sunshine in the mail. Buy prepackaged envelopes (available at office-supply and craft stores). Cut an 8½-inch-by-11-inch piece of patterned paper in half. Fold each piece in half to create 2 cards. Decorate cards with flower stickers. Sell in packages of 4, and hold each package together with a pretty ribbon.

Cost: \$1.00

Sell: \$3.00

Profit: \$2.00



Flower Power

Divide a pack of flowers found at gardening centers. Pansies or petunias work well. Use potting soil to plant them in individual inexpensive pots. Tie a ribbon around each one and sell individually.

Cost: \$1.75

Sell: \$4.00

Profit: \$2.25





Cost: \$1.25
Sell: \$3.00
Profit: \$1.75

Toad Abode
Make a little home for garden toads. Decorate a terra-cotta pot with acrylic paint. Let dry. Add frog stickers and coat with Mod Podge. Let dry. Glue a couple of rocks to the bottom of the pot as shown to create a "door" for the toads. Let dry.



WELCOME



Rock the Garden

Painted rocks will brighten up anyone's garden or windowsill! Find various sizes of rocks and wash them. Use acrylic paint to turn the rocks into cute accents for a garden or potted plant.

Cost: \$.25
Sell: \$.75
Profit: \$.50



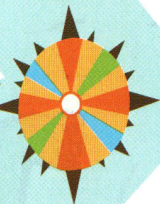
Cost: \$.50
Sell: \$2.00
Profit: \$1.50

Cat Grass

Cats will love this pretty treat. Grow cat grass (available at pet-supply stores) in colorful plastic cups. Follow the directions on the seed package for growing. Add a cute cat sticker to the front of each cup. ★



Friend Finders



by Patti Kelley Criswell

Want to make new friends? Here are tips on where to find them, what to say, and how to get things started.



Join a club

In Girl Scouts, 4-H, and other groups, you'll work on projects together and probably find friends.



Start something

What are you into? If it's reading, start a book club. If it's chess, start a chess club. Try to get girls together who like the same thing, and it's almost sure to pay off. Ask your parent to help you get something going.

Take a class

Sign up for swimming, computers, or dance. You'll be surrounded by people to meet, and you'll learn something new!





Play a sport

Join the team! Regular practices and exciting games can lead to close friendships.

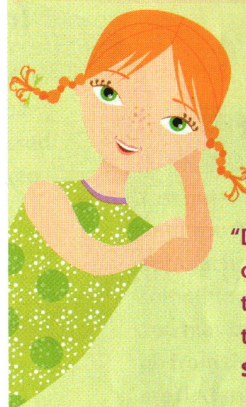
Just get out of the house!

Watch for other opportunities to get together with girls from your community, church, or school. Put yourself in situations where you might meet people, and, hey, you just might!



Advice from Girls

Here's what girls had to say about making new friends:



"Don't judge people by what other people say about them. Get to know them, then decide for yourself!"

Sam, age 13

"Walk up to someone who is alone, not with a group of friends. She will be glad someone is talking to her!"

Sarah, age 10

"Making friends is a lot like doing a jigsaw puzzle. Some people fit in a certain place and others don't. Just don't try to force it."

Ryan, age 14

"I sit back and watch people for a while. If they seem nice from a distance, then I start talking to them."

Natalie, age 9

"The number one thing about making friends is to be yourself. Don't try to be someone you're not. People won't respect you if they think you're a faker."

Amanda, age 13

"I try my best to be kind, honest, and loyal. Then I just trust that friendships will happen, and so far they have."

Elizabeth, age 11

"People love to laugh. I met my best friends because they were funny!"

Courtney, age 13



Speak Up!

When it comes to making new friends, you have to get the conversation started. Here are some ways to get talking:

Show an interest

I've been wanting to read that book.
Do you like it?

Introduce yourself!

Hi! I'm Alisha.
Are you signing up for dance?

Share a little

I moved once, so I know it's really hard at first.

Give a compliment

I like your haircut.
It looks great!

Ask an opinion

What do you think of the new soccer uniforms?

Find something in common

I saw you at the concert. Do you like jazz, too?

Offer to help

I can show you how to French braid your hair.

Offer an invitation

Want to go to the pool together?



Feeling Shy?

Here are some tips for speaking up:

One on One

Approach a person rather than a whole group, and act as natural as you can. Be prepared by bringing extra pencils, tissues, or gum. Offering to share is a great way to start talking to someone.



Loosen Up

Let your body help you talk. It's hard to have a conversation with a girl whose head is down or whose arms are crossed tightly across her chest. So take a deep breath, relax, and smile.



Take a Chance

Just get those first words out! Don't wait until you feel totally comfortable to approach someone. Take some risks. Say something simple like "Hi. How are you?" You may be surprised by how easy it is to go from there. Remember, most people are flattered when someone shows an interest in them. Try to let others know you're interested in what they have to say.

Hi! How
are you?



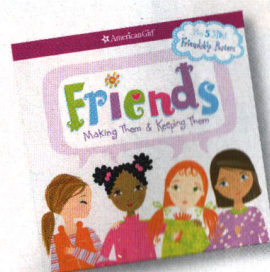
Try It at Home

Practice at home in front of a mirror. Just act like you're talking to someone you've never met. It might sound silly, but it works. Once you have said the words to yourself over and over, saying them to someone else won't be as difficult.



Out and About

Ask your mom or dad to help you practice, practice, practice. The more you speak up, the more natural it will feel. Try out conversation starters at the dinner table. Order for yourself at restaurants, and ask questions of salespeople. After a while, speaking up won't seem so hard.



These tips are from the book *Friends*—available in bookstores. ★

Set the Scene

Transform your yard into the perfect place for a Mexican fiesta. Put a brightly colored tablecloth on a picnic table. Hang colorful garlands and a brightly-colored piñata from trees in the yard.

Taco Bar



Ask an adult to prepare the fixin's for delicious tacos. Set out bowls with meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, and sour cream. Have guests grab taco shells and build their own tasty tacos!

Invitation

Roll up a colorful piece of paper with party details and wrap a mini paper flower around to secure. Turn to page 49 for instructions on how to make a mini flower.



Señorita!

Write down the Spanish girl names below on slips of paper. When guests arrive have them draw names out of a hat. Have guests use their new names for the day.

Carmen	Paulina
Maria	Gabriella
Angelica	Maya
Elena	Anna



Amigas Party

Invite your friends over for a party with a Mexican twist.

Time for Lime

Quench guests' thirst with this tangy punch. Mix frozen lime juice concentrate with seltzer water. Serve in colorful paper cups.

Drink Tags

Make name tags to hang from cups. Write guests' Spanish names on pieces of colored paper. Punch a hole in each piece of paper and tie around a cup with ribbon. Add a piece of tape to the ribbon to secure it to the cup.



Rojo, Verde!

Play red light, green light—in Spanish! For “rojo” (ro-ho) and for “green light” say “verde” (vare-day). One girl is “It” and the rest line up in front of her across the yard. It yells “verde” and players run forward. When It yells “rojo” players must stop. If players move when “rojo” is yelled, they are out. When It yells “verde,” they run again. Continue playing until the first person reaches It.


Paper Flowers

Cut a standard-sized sheet of tissue paper in half. Then cut each half in half again to make 4 rectangles. You will need 6 rectangles per flower. Follow the instructions to make flowers. (See steps at right.)


1. Layer 6 pieces of tissue paper, alternating colors. Fold accordion-style.
2. Fold the paper in half and tightly twist a pipe cleaner around the fold.
3. Gently peel down layers of tissue paper to form a big flower.



Sweet Salsa

 Make a fruity version of the Mexican salsa. Ask an adult to help you blend about 10 frozen strawberries in a blender. Set aside. Ask an adult to help you cut a variety of fruits into small pieces. Kiwi, mangoes, bananas, and pineapple are good fruits to cut up. In a large bowl mix the diced fruit and blended strawberries. Serve chilled.

Cinnamon Chips

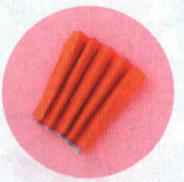
 Dip these chips in the Sweet Salsa. Use a clean scissors to cut flour tortillas into chip shapes. Place the chips on a piece of waxed paper and spray them with butter spray. Sprinkle cinnamon sugar on top. Place the chips on a cookie sheet. Ask an adult to help you bake the chips at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes (or until brown). Remove from oven and cool before serving.



Mini Flowers

Give each girl a mini flower to tuck behind her ear. (Be careful of sharp twist tie ends.)

1. Cut 3 pieces of crepe paper 3 inches long. Layer the papers and make a small accordion fold.



2. Pinch a twist tie around the center of the paper. Secure tightly. Gently peel paper layers apart, creating a flower.





Hot Tamale!

Grab a partner and a beach towel. Play merengue or salsa music while tossing a ball back and forth to another team of two using the towel. Keep tossing quickly until the music stops. Whoever has the ball when the music stops gets a point. The object is to have the fewest points. If a team drops the ball they also get a point. Continue playing until one team gets 10 points (they lose!).

Market Buys

Create an outdoor market with little treasures (available at discount or party-supply stores). Give each girl 10 "pesos" (Mexican money). Use fake gold coins found at party stores for the pesos. Trinkets can be purchased from the market person for 1, 2, or 3 pesos apiece. Guests can put their purchases in their favor bags.

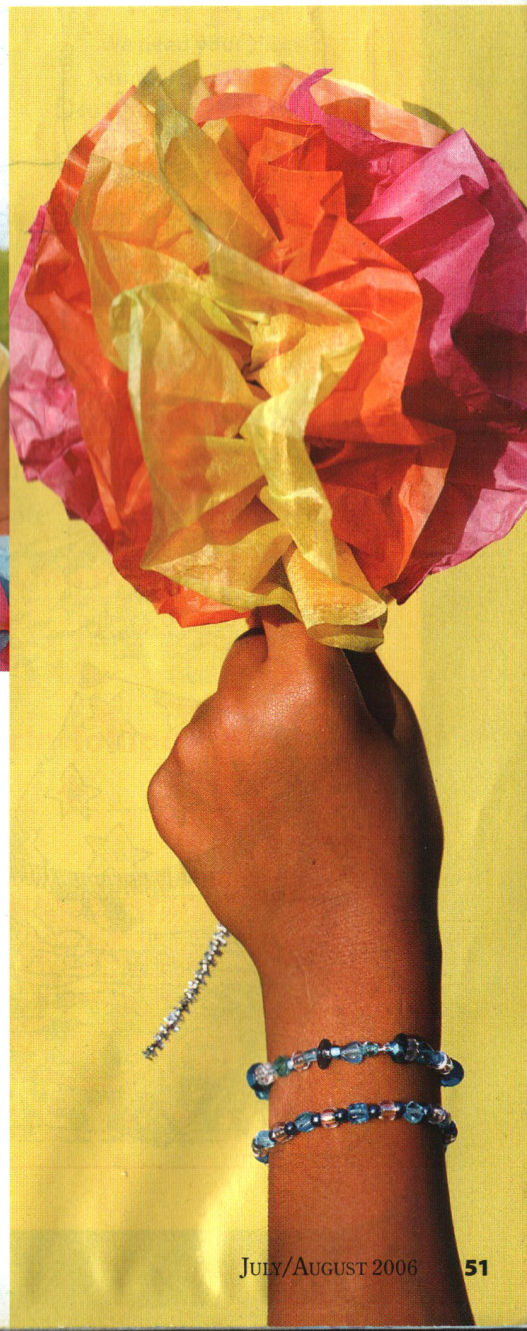
Beaded Bracelet

Design beautiful bracelets with beads and sequins. Give each girl a 10-inch-long piece of clear stretch cord. Have guests tie a knot on one end of the cord and begin stringing on beads and sequins. When they string enough beads on to fit around their wrists, have them tie a double knot in the cord. Add a dab of glue around the knot to secure. Let dry. Cut remaining cord.




Favor Bag

Give each guest a bag to use when shopping at the outdoor market. Tape mini paper flowers to the fronts of small gift bags. Turn to page 49 for instructions on how to make a mini flower. Fiesta forever! ★



Brainwaves

activities and puzzles



A to Sea Maze

Connect the letters of the alphabet in order, beginning with the blue A. You can move only up, down, and across—not diagonally. No fair skipping letters!

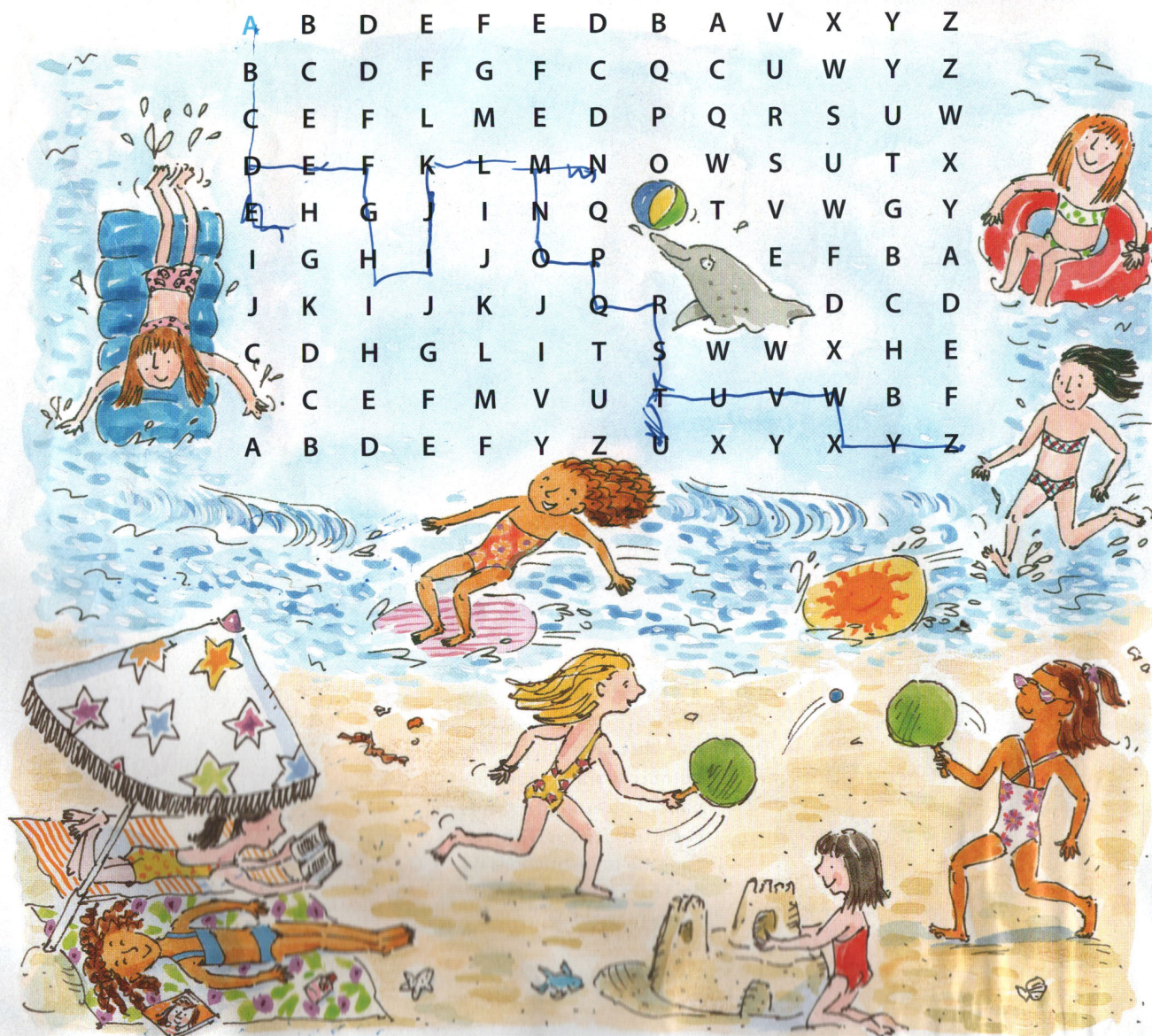
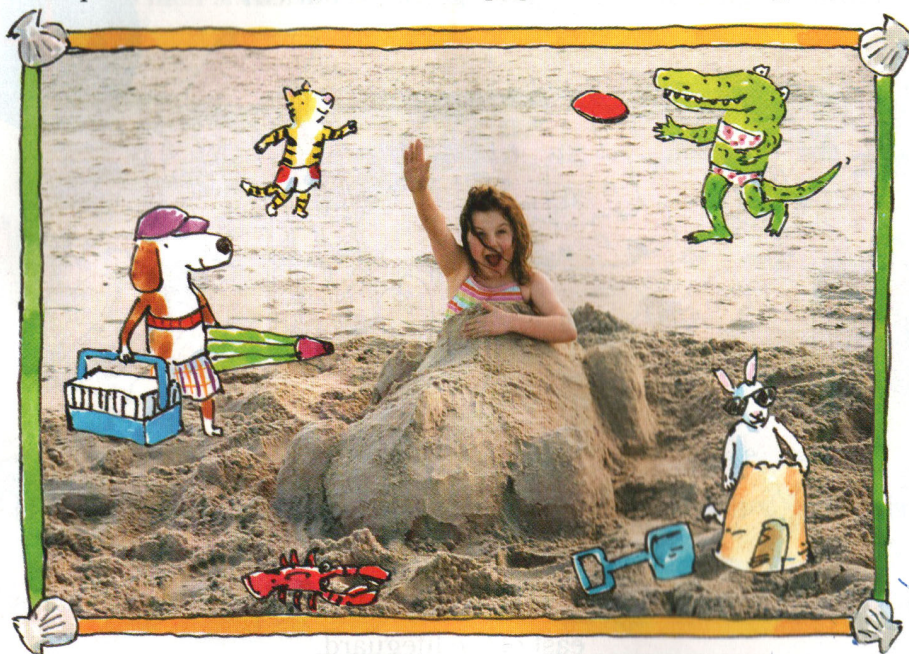


Photo Fun

We love this silly photo of eight-year-old Josie T. from Wisconsin with her sand car. Look at the photo for a minute, then turn to page 54 to answer the questions and test your memory.



We need your silly photos! Send them to **Brain Waves** at the address on **page 2**, and maybe we'll use one in a puzzle. Sorry, photos can't be returned.

Long Boards

Lexi, Sarah, Morgan, and June left their surfboards in the sand. Can you figure out whose board is whose?

Sarah's board is bigger than June's.

Sarah's board is not the biggest.

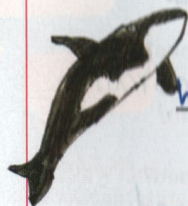
June's board is smaller than Morgan's.

June's board is bigger than Lexi's.



Rhyme Time

Use the clues below to find the rhyming pair of words that makes each answer. For example, "guppy plate" would be "fish dish."



1. Shamu story

whale tale

2. Beachy lollipop

sandy candy



3. Marvelous crustacean

fab crab



4. Seaside fruit

beach peach



Treasure Hunt

Shelly and Sandy have a treasure map. Follow the stars and use the clues below to help the girls find where the treasure is buried!



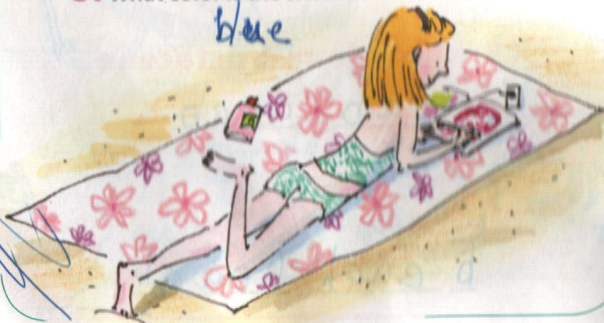
1. The treasure is buried at a ★ that is east of the picnickers.
2. The treasure is buried at a ★ that is west of the sunbathers.

3. The treasure is not buried at a ★ that is west of the sand castle.
4. The treasure is not buried at a ★ that is east of the lifeguard.

Photo Fun Questions

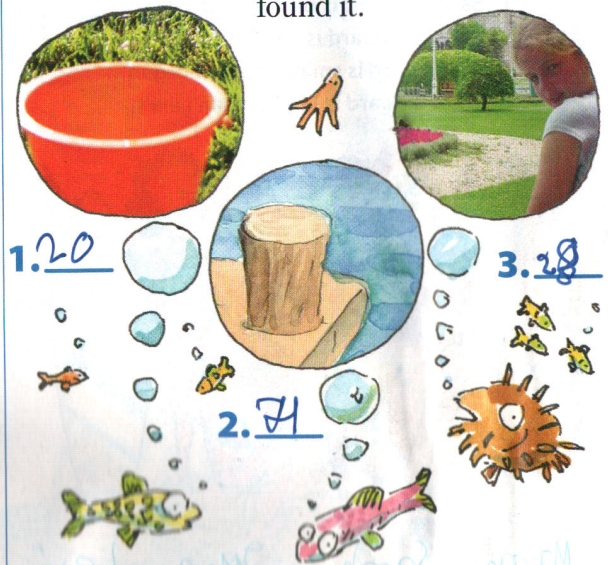
Test your memory with these questions about the photo on page 53.

1. Which hand is Josie waving? *left*
2. Which animal is catching the Frisbee? *Crocodile*
3. Which animal has a baseball cap on? *dog*
4. Is Josie's bathing suit solid or striped? *striped*
5. Which animal is behind the sand castle? *rabbit*
6. What color is the shovel? *blue*



Art Sleuth

Search the pages of this issue to find where each snippet of a photo or illustration shown below came from. Write down where you found it.



Souvenir Spending

Kari wants to buy souvenirs for her friends. She has exactly \$20 to spend. Which six things should she buy if she doesn't want any change left over?



Laffateria

Why do whales live in salt water?



Because pepper water makes them sneeze.

Julia J.
Age 12, Connecticut

What part of a fish weighs the most?



The scales

Leanna R.
Age 12, California

Knock, knock!
Who's there?
Crab!
Crab who?



Crab your bathing suit. We're going for a swim.

Shelby C.
Age 12, Nevada

Where do fish keep their money?



In a river bank.

Hana K.
Age 12, Korea

What do you call a cross between my grandma and an octopus?

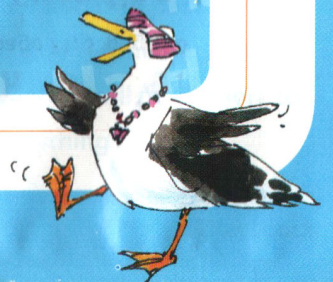


I don't know, but it sure can play bingo!

Christy C.
Age 11, Japan

Funny Business

Send your best joke to Brain Waves! Write to the address on page 2. Include your name, birth date, school photo, and signature.



SpecTAGular

Try three twists on tag!

Limbs Tag

IT tries to tag each player four times—on each arm and each leg. Wherever IT tags a player, that limb can't bend. When someone gets all four limbs tagged, she's the next IT.



Mirror Tag

IT stands in the middle of the playing area with a small plastic mirror in her hand. She can't run, but she can turn in circles. The other players can't stand still—they have to keep running around IT. When IT catches a glimpse of someone in her mirror, IT calls out that person's name, and that person is IT next.



Chain Tag

IT chases the other players. When a girl is tagged, she must link arms with IT. As more players are caught, the chain gets longer, but only IT can tag other players. Play until everyone is caught. The next IT is the first girl that the previous IT caught.



Answer Box



3. fab crab; 4. beach peach
1. whale tale; 2. sandy candy;

Rhyme Time

and Lexi.
belong to Morgan, Sarah, June,
From left to right, the boards

Long Boards



A to Sea Maze



Treasure Hunt

Photo Fun Questions

1. Josie is waving her right hand;
2. the alligator is catching the
Frisbee; 3. the dog is wearing
the baseball cap; 4. Josie's suit is
striped; 5. the rabbit is behind the
sand castle; 6. the shovel is blue.

Behind the Scenes

Habla Español! 1. D; 2. E; 3. A;
4. B; 5. C

Buzzword

Spangled is used on page 14.

Karl should buy the fish figurine for
\$8.00, the monkey for \$4.25, the
snow globe for \$3.00, a star neck-
lace for \$2.00, the white shell for
\$1.50, and the beach ball for \$1.25.

Souvenir Spending

1. page 20; 2. page 71; 3. page 28

Art Sleuth

HELP!

Dear American Girl,

I'm big on safety. I'm always afraid to take chances because I'm afraid I'll get hurt. My little sister is a daredevil, but I can never have fun because I'm a safety freak. Please help!

Ms. Safety

Being safe is important, but if you spend too much time thinking about every possible bad thing that could happen, you'll be too scared to do *anything*. Next time you're tempted to try something new, ask someone who knows how to do it for advice. Make sure you have the right equipment, and yes, wear any safety gear that is needed. Then take a deep breath and give it a whirl. Don't let fear stop you from trying new things!



Dear American Girl,

A girl I know always has to one-up me. For example, if I have a new necklace, she has a new necklace from New York. How do I deal with it?

Feeling low

Believe it or not, this girl is probably jealous of you, and this is her way of



feeling better about herself. But you don't have to politely listen to her put you down. The next time she does this, just say something like "Oh, that's nice," and quickly change the subject. Don't fall into her competition trap!



Dear American Girl,

I play basketball. My dad and I always fight because, after every game, he tells me what I did wrong instead of praising me for the things I did right. I appreciate when he helps me, but sometimes he makes me cry. What do I do?

Family Fights

Your dad sounds like he wants to help you, but instead, you're

ending up hurt and frustrated. You need to talk to him. If you're too nervous to talk, try writing him a letter. Tell him you know he wants to help, but the way he's doing it isn't working. Suggest that you make a rule not to discuss a game for 24 hours. That way, you'll both be able to cool off and discuss the game calmly.



Dear American Girl,

I have a brother who is very allergic to nuts. My family has to be careful because a lot of things could have nuts in them. I feel so guilty because when my family and I go to a party, he can't have anything, but I can. Help!

guilty

You sound like a caring sister. It isn't your fault that your brother has allergies, so try not to feel guilty. If you don't make as big a deal out of his allergies, he might not feel so awkward. Instead, think about what would be the most helpful. Help remind your family to pack safe snacks for your brother. Just be supportive. That will mean more to him than anything else.

MORE HELP!

Dear American Girl,

My friends always tell secrets. When I say, "No secrets!" they say, "It's not a secret. We just didn't feel like saying it out loud." I've told them to stop, but they won't listen. Help! No secrets!

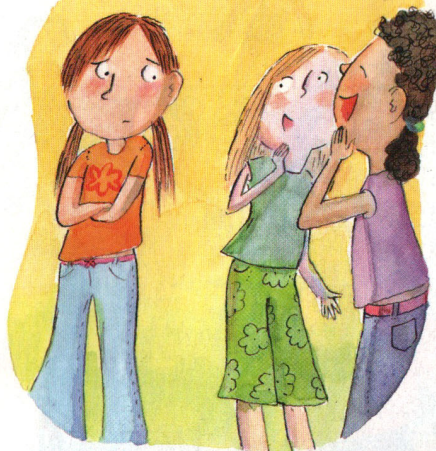
These girls are being obnoxious, and whispering in front of you is just plain rude. It's time for you to think about your relationship with them and decide whether they are truly your friends. After you spend time with them, ask yourself: Do they treat me the way I want to be treated? Do they make me feel good about myself? Do I like who I am when I'm with them? Be honest. If you don't like the answers, start spending time with friends who make you feel good.



Dear American Girl,

My parents don't trust me! I just had my first day of summer at home alone, and they cut off the Internet. They didn't even give me a chance. How can I get them to trust me? Cyber shorted

My friends always



tell secrets.

Maybe it's not that your parents don't trust you—they probably don't trust the Internet. After all, even the most experienced Web surfer can be caught off guard by inappropriate material. Don't take it personally—just surf when your parents are home. Talk to them about what you can be doing with your time when they're away. If you have activities planned and creative things to do, you won't even miss the Internet.



Dear American Girl,

My friend and I talked about how we think long hair is better than short. Well, I wanted a change so I cut my hair short and layered it. Now I'm worried about what my friend will think. Scared about my Hair!

So you changed your mind. Guess what? You're allowed to do that! You should be really proud that you think for yourself, too. As long as you like your new cut, that's what matters most. But if you have a hunch that your friend might make a big deal over it, you can bring up the subject first. You could say, "I still like long hair, but I decided to cut mine short. I was ready for a change." Leave it at that, and it will be harder for her to say something negative.



Advice from You

"Don't just brush off other people's compliments by saying 'Yeah, right.' Really think about those compliments and say 'Thanks.' You'll feel much better about yourself."

Kaelan F.

Age 12, New Hampshire

Need advice? Got advice? Write: Help!

American Girl magazine

8400 Fairway Place
Middleton, WI 53562



We loved the brightly colored swimsuits we had to choose from for our cover shoot. Go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine" to vote for your favorite swimsuit.



There were giggles galore at the photo shoot for "Amigas Party." Take a look at these funny outtakes from the shoot.

We were impressed with all of the clever fish designs you came up with for our design-a-fish contest. Go to americangirl.com and click on "Magazine" to see more of the winners.



★ Behind the Scenes

This issue was like one big fiesta with all of the fun we had working on it!

It's a record! We received more than 12,000 entries for our cover contest. Thank you all for entering. Watch for the winners on the cover of our November/December issue.

Habla Español?

Take this mini quiz to test your Spanish! Match the Spanish word to the English translation. Go to page 56 for the answers.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| 1. verano | A. sun |
| 2. caliente | B. beach |
| 3. sol | C. garden |
| 4. playa | D. summer |
| 5. jardín | E. hot |

Thanks to Traci, Carly, Jasmine, and Sarah for helping us test the games from "Fun in the Sun."



Feeling Stressed?
How to stay calm when
things around you are crazy

Sharp Designs!
See the winners of our
"Decorate a Pencil" contest.

American Girl™

Coming up in the September/October issue

Spooky Surprises
You'll be batty about these
frightfully fun Halloween ideas!

Popularity
Girls like you share their thoughts
about what it means to be popular.



Picture This
Cute and clever ways to display
your friends' school photos



Extra Credit
Surefire ways to wow your
teacher this year!



The Founding Daughters Find America

by *Elizabeth McDavid Jones*

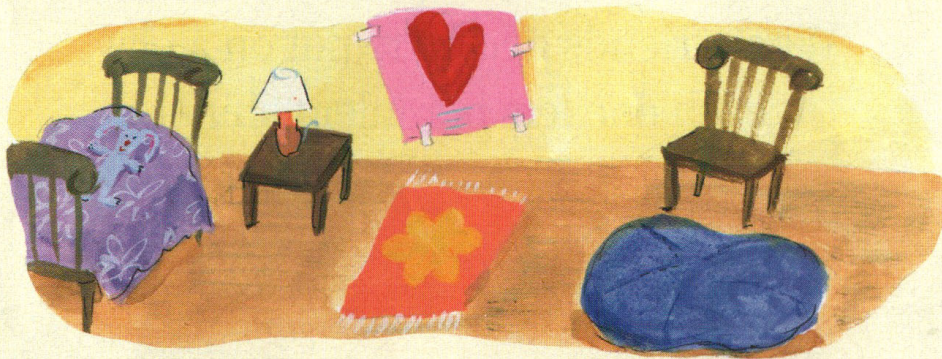
Illustrated by Laura Cornell

When friends decide to put on a play,
each one lets her talent shine.



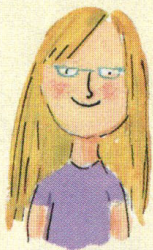
You Will Need

THE SETS—For the first two scenes, you'll need a set that looks like a girl's bedroom with a **bed** (you can use two chairs pushed together with a blanket), a couple of **chairs**, a **small table**, and a **rug**. For the last scene, you'll need a **small table** and **two chairs**, and the stage **curtain**.



THE PROPS—You'll need a **newspaper**, a copy of *American Girl* magazine, a folded paper program, five stapled scripts, cut paper stars, and a horn.

THE CAST—You will also need an Announcer.



Mandy



Kensley



Joelle



Caitlin



Dana

The Founding Daughters Find America



Scene 1: *The scene opens in Mandy's bedroom. Five friends (Mandy, Caitlin, Joelle, Kensley, and Dana) are sitting around the room trying to decide what to do. Mandy is on the floor looking through a newspaper. Dana has flung herself in a chair and is flipping through an American Girl magazine. Joelle, Kensley, and Caitlin are scattered elsewhere about the room, looking bored.)*

Kensley: Guys, come on! Let's think of something to do!

Joelle: *(glumly)* Not much we can do when it's pouring rain.

Dana: We could go to the movies.

Mandy: *(without looking up from the paper)* Not me. I'm broke.

Caitlin: So am I.

Joelle: Me too. I've already spent all this week's allowance.

Kensley: What are you talking about? I've already spent my next *two* weeks' allowances.

Dana: How about the mall?

Joelle: No money, remember?

Dana: *(hopefully)* We could just look.

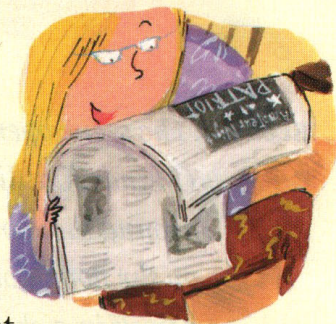
Kensley: Nah, that's no fun.

Caitlin: Face it, Dana. There's nothing you can do on a day like this with no money. *(For a while, everybody is silent, looking glum. The only sound that can be heard is Mandy rattling pages of the newspaper as she turns them. Suddenly her face brightens.)*

Mandy: Look at this! *(She hits the newspaper with the back of her hand.)*
This will solve all our problems!

Everybody: What? What is it?

Mandy: There's going to be a youth talent contest at this year's Patriot Days festival, with a cash prize for first place. If we can come up with the winning act, we'll get a hundred bucks!



Caitlin: Sweet! That's twenty dollars each!

Kensley: Girls, with our talent, we're a cinch for first place.

Everybody: Yeah! We sure are!

Kensley: *(looking around)* If we move all this furniture, we can start choreographing the dance now—

Joelle: Dance? Kensley, that's your talent. Let's do a clown act! It'll be hilarious. I've got plenty of clown makeup, fake noses, and—

Dana: You've got to be kidding, Joelle. There's no way I'm wearing a big red nose in front of the whole town. Now, if we were to do gymnastics—

Caitlin: One problem, Dana. You're the only one of us limber enough to do gymnastics. But anybody can recite poetry. I could write a patriotic poem and we could wear red, white, and blue—

Kensley: Dress up like flags? Not me. I think we should do the dance routine.

Joelle: No, a clown act!

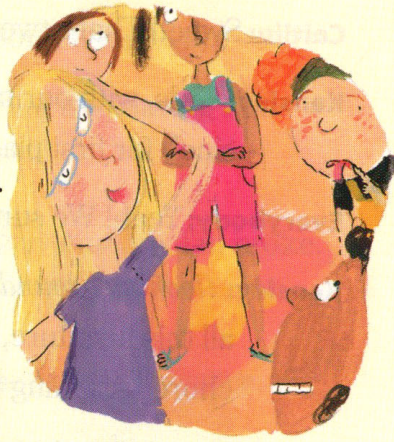
Dana: Gymnastics!

Caitlin: A poetry reading! *(They start arguing.)*

Mandy: Guys! I know how to settle this whole thing! *(Everybody quiets down and looks at Mandy.)* O.K. We want to win first prize, right? *(A chorus of yeses.)* So whatever act we choose to do, it has to be the absolute



best, better than any of the other kids in town. We all have our individual talents. Take me, for example. I have a certain dramatic flair... *(She tosses her head; the others roll their eyes.)* But am I a better actress than every other kid in town?



Kensley: No! *(Mandy gives her a dirty look.)* Well, you asked.

Mandy: *(huffy)* I didn't mean for anyone to answer.

Dana: Never mind, Mandy. I know what you're saying. We each have a certain thing we're good at, but we all have to be good to win the prize.

Mandy: Exactly. And if we do a play, we can all be good, because I'll get my mom to help us.

Joelle: Yeah! Your mom's the high-school drama teacher!

Caitlin: And the high-school plays are always awesome!

Kensley: In that case, maybe we should do a play.

Dana: *(nodding)* Something patriotic.

Mandy: Great! I'm glad we all agree. And since my mom is helping us win first place, I know you'll also agree it's only fair that I write the play.

Caitlin: Well...I guess you're right, Mandy. But make it good, O.K.? With lots of big, juicy parts for all of us. *(Pauses.)* And maybe some poetry? *(Everybody groans.)*



Scene 2: *(Two weeks later, in Mandy's bedroom, where the girls are meeting for the first play rehearsal. Mandy is alone, clutching a stack of scripts. She appears nervous, paces, sits down, then stands up again and paces some more.)*

Mandy: I hope they're not going to be mad at me. At least not too mad. After all, it's not my fault. I hope they understand. *(Continues pacing until she hears a knock at the door.)* They're here! *(Goes to door and opens it. Joelle, Dana, and Kensley enter from stage right.)* Hi, guys.

Dana: Hi, Mandy. Is that the play? Can I see my part?

Joelle: Gee, our first rehearsal. I can't wait to get started! Who am I going to be?

Mandy: *(nervously)* Let's wait for Caitlin, O.K.?

Kensley: Sure. Here she comes now. *(looking to stage right)*

Caitlin: *(enters waving a paper program)* Hey, guys! Guess what! The programs for the contest are printed!

And look, here are all our names.
(Points to the program. Everyone looks.)



Dana: (staring ahead with a dreamy expression)

Gee, I like that title: *The Founding Daughters Find America: A Dramatic Look at the Birth of Our Country*. It sounds really important, doesn't it?

Joelle: (also dreamy) Yeah. We're going to win for sure.

Kensley: (in a practical tone) We can't win unless we practice, girls. And we'd better get started. The festival's only a week away. Hey, Mandy, where's your mom? We can't get started without her.

Mandy: (nervously) She...uh...she's not coming. (Sits.)

Kensley: What? (Sits.)

Caitlin: You mean she's not coming until later? (Sits and puts program down.)

Mandy: Well...not exactly. She's not coming at all.

Dana: Your mom's going to miss our first rehearsal? (Sits.)

Mandy: (tentatively) Actually, she's going to miss *all* our rehearsals.

Joelle: (narrowing her eyes) What do you mean, *all* our rehearsals? (Sits.)

Mandy: (heaving a sigh) O.K., I might as well tell you. My mom's not helping us with our play.

Kensley: But you promised she would! That's why we decided to do a play. That's why we let you write it.

Mandy: (looking downcast) I know, I know. But she said since it was a youth contest, it wouldn't be fair if she helped us. We'll have to do the best we can without her.
(brightening) But it's a great play. You guys are going to love your parts—

Kensley: Why didn't you tell us she wasn't helping? We could have done a dance routine!

Joelle: Or a clown act!

Caitlin: Or read poetry!

Dana: Or done gymnastics!

Kensley: (crossing her arms) You should have told us, Mandy.

Everybody else: Yeah!

Mandy: (sheepishly) I know I should have. But the programs are already printed. (brightening) And it is a great play!

Dana: Mandy's right. There's nothing we can do about it now.

Mandy: (emphatically) The play is good, guys! The way I've written it, each of us can bring her own special gift to her role.

Kensley: O.K., let's see our parts then. Who am I?

Mandy: (stands and hands Kensley's script to her) You, Kensley, are Betsy Ross.

Kensley: (looking pleased) Oh, wow, Betsy Ross. That's a pretty big part.



Mandy: Yeah, it's a great role. They're all great roles, really. *(She walks and gives the other scripts out.)* Caitlin, you're Mrs. Paul Revere. Joelle, you're Mrs. Patrick Henry, and Dana, you're Nathan Hale's girlfriend. Nathan wasn't married, you see. *(Sits. The girls look over their scripts, turning pages.)*



Kensley: Wait a minute, Mandy. Who are you in this play? You wouldn't by any chance be Martha Washington?

Mandy: *(smiling broadly)* Well, yes, as a matter of fact, I am.

Kensley: I thought so. You've given yourself the biggest part, with all the best lines!

Mandy: *(defensive)* I am the one here with the dramatic flair, Kensley, so it made sense for me to play Martha.

Joelle: Yeah, but that means you get to show off your talent—

Dana: And we don't get to show off anything!

Caitlin: You know, Mandy, if we'd done a poetry reading—

Mandy: *(stands)* O.K., guys, I'm sorry! But this is all we have. It's only a week until the festival, and all of us together could never come up with another act in time.

Kensley: *(stands)* No. All of us *together* probably couldn't.

Dana: *(stands)* Well, yeah, that's true. It would take real talent to change this play now. Maybe we should all just do

our best to work with these roles the way they are...
(Her face shows deep thought as her words trail off.)

Joelle: *(stands)* Yeah, like Mandy said, we all bring our own gifts to our roles. It's all in how we interpret them.

Mandy: *(smiling broadly with arms outstretched)* Sure! Ad lib a little. Make your role your own!

Caitlin: *(stands)* Now that you mention it, I can see the potential in this play. Lots of potential. There's more than one way to play Mrs. Paul Revere.

Kensley: *(nodding thoughtfully)* I suppose every actress does bring something of herself to her role—

Mandy: See, I told you! We're all really talented—if we each do our best, we're sure to win first place!

Everybody else: *(in poses that indicate deep thought, such as a finger to a temple, narrowed eyes, or a cocked head)*
Yeah...Our best...First place...

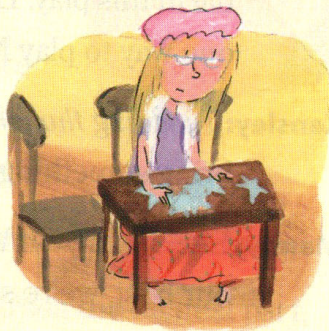


Scene 3: *In the theater, the night of the contest. On the "stage" there are two chairs with a small table in the middle. On the table should be several large five-pointed stars cut from paper.*

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, our last act is a patriotic play titled *The Founding Daughters Find America*.

Mandy: *(enters from stage left dressed as Martha Washington. She sits and looks around, a little confused about where Kensley is, so she ad libs.)*

It's nine o'clock. I wonder where Mrs. Ross is? We were supposed to meet. *(calling)* Hello? Betsy?



Kensley: *(enters dressed as Betsy Ross, doing leaps and twirls)* Good morning, Mrs. Washington! *(Sits.)*

Mandy: *(surprised, but tries to cover it)* Mrs. Betsy Ross, I'm here to talk to you today because my husband, George Washington, has a terrible case of laryngitis, and he can't talk at all. So I've come to ask you to sew a flag for our new country, the United States of America. Could you do that, Betsy?

Kensley: Yes, Martha, I would be happy to do that for my country. *(Stands and picks a star off of the table, then begins doing dance movements across the stage. Dance should be exaggerated for comic effect. Mandy stares at her open-mouthed.)* And these are the stars I will use to create a beautiful new flag of red, white, and blue.



Mandy: *(looking dumbstruck as Kensley dances across the stage)* Uhh...I...uhh...the stars...

Kensley: *(still dancing)* Did you want to know something about the stars, Martha?

Mandy: *(moving her head back and forth as she watches Kensley)* Yes! The stars...the stars...By golly, I like 'em with six points and yours have five!

Kensley: *(still dancing)* Well, I know that, Martha. But five-pointed stars are so much easier to cut. I'll have to cut thirteen stars for our flag, one star for each of our states, when we get our liberty from England—

Joelle: *(from offstage)* Liberty, did someone say liberty? That's my line! You're taking my line! *(enters, bolting from stage left. She's wearing clown makeup, but otherwise is dressed as Mrs. Patrick Henry. She's also carrying a party horn.)* Give me liberty or give me death! *(She blows two toots on the party horn.)* My husband's

famous words! I sound them (*toot, toot*) wherever I go because they are the sound (*toot, toot*) of our new nation. (*She "bumps" into a chair and pretends to fall, then jumps up and toots her horn, grinning broadly.*)

Mandy: (*confused*) Mrs. Patrick Henry, you're...uhh...early.

Kensley: (*dancing over*) Yeah, like a whole scene early.

Joelle: (*confused*) Isn't this the tea party where we're drinking coffee because the tea was thrown into Boston Harbor?



Kensley: (*stops dancing, annoyed*) Next scene, Mrs. Henry. (*waving star*) We're making a flag here, not drinking coffee. (*Starts dancing.*)

Joelle: Oh, sorry. I'll be back for the party. (*Toots horn and makes an exaggerated run to exit stage left.*)

Caitlin: Did someone say party? The Boston Tea Party? That's my cue! (*Enters from stage left, dressed as Mrs. Paul Revere.*) Listen, my children, and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Paul Revere—

Mandy: No, no, Mrs. Revere. We said party but we didn't mean party. Not until we're done with the flag—

Caitlin: (*reciting overdramatically*) You're a grand old flag; you're a high-flying flag, and forever in peace may you wave—

Kensley: (*stops dancing. With hands on hips, to Caitlin's face*) Not yet! The flag isn't made yet! It can't be waving anywhere if I haven't made it yet! (*starts dancing*)

Caitlin: (*ignoring her, with hand over her heart*) You're the emblem of the land I love, the home of the free and the brave—

Mandy: (*jumps up to stand in front of Caitlin, trying to block her*) Yes, brave, oh yes! My husband—General George, you know—and I were talking just the other day about our brave men willing to give their lives—



Dana: (*enters from stage left by doing a cartwheel or other move. Is dressed as Nathan Hale's girlfriend with shorts underneath her skirt.*) Yes, Mrs. Washington! Brave men like my dear Nathan Hale. (*Leaps, then stretches arms up, gymnast-style. Keeps arms up.*)

Mandy: (*flustered*) Why, if it isn't Nathan Hale's girlfriend! What a surprise to see you! Especially in this scene.

Kensley: (*dancing over to Dana*) Yeah, tea party's next scene.

Dana: I may be early, but it's late, too late for my poor Nathan, who had but one life to lose for his country. (*Does forward roll, then jumps up.*) And he gave his life freely! All in the name of liberty! (*Stretches arms up.*)

Joelle: (*enters from stage left with horn*) Liberty? Did you say liberty? Give me liberty (*toot, toot*) or give me death! (*Runs around in a clownish way, being silly.*)



Caitlin: *(ducking out from behind Mandy)* One if by land, two if by sea, is what husband Paul said to me!

Dana: *(does a series of leaps, then ends with arms up)* One life to lose for his country! And he gave it!

Kensley: *(dancing)* Five-pointed stars for our beautiful flag!

(Mandy looks from girl to girl, then puts her hands to her face and runs off, exiting stage left. The other girls look at one another and go after Mandy. Curtains close. Mandy enters running from stage left in front of curtain. Others enter, following.)

Mandy: *(stops)* How could you do this to me? How could you play such a mean joke? I thought you were my friends!

Dana: What joke? We didn't play a joke on you.

Mandy: You did! You got together and decided you would ruin the play, to get even with me! It was the most humiliating experience of my life. I could just cry!

Joelle: Not me! I wasn't trying to ruin the play—I was trying to make it better. Everybody loves clowns.

Dana: Yeah, I was just trying to add some action to the play, not wreck it.

Kensley: Just a little grace, y'know, with a few dance moves—

Caitlin: A little poetry, that's all.

Mandy: *(sighing)* I guess you all meant well, but there's no way we're going to win first prize now.

Announcer: And now...first prize goes to the hilarious play, *The Founding Daughters Find America*. Let's hear it for this wonderful comedy!

Mandy: *(everybody looks surprised)*
What d'you know? We won.

Everybody: Yeah! We won! We won!



Plan Your Play!

Your play will be a lot of fun to perform—and to watch!—if you follow these basic steps.

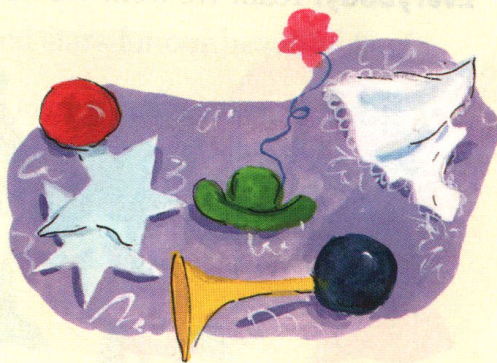
Pick Parts

Choose who will play each part. The characters in this play bring their own talents to their final performance, and you can, too. If you would rather sing Caitlin's part instead of reciting dramatically, you can. Or if someone wants to play Dana as a cheerleader instead of a gymnast, that's fine, too. You can change the script to make it make sense. Just make it as funny as you can!



Find a Place

If you don't have a real stage, you can use a yard. Hang two shower curtains from a clothesline to make stage curtains. Invite people to come and let them know when your show will start.



Make Costumes

For the first two scenes, the characters can wear casual summer clothing. For the last scene, the characters should wear costumes that help them look like the historical figures they're playing. You can make a very simple historical costume by putting on a sundress or skirt over the casual clothes from the first two scenes. Tie a lacy hanky around your hair, or add an apron, and you're done. Don't forget—the girl playing Joelle will need clown makeup. If you can add wigs and other accessories to make fancier costumes, that's great, but it isn't essential. Just make sure you can safely do what your character needs to do in the costume—cartwheels, leaps, dancing, or whatever.

Get Ready

Have a dress rehearsal or two. Practice putting on the costumes for the third scene. Use all the props. Make sure you know when to enter and exit the stage. Fix any last-minute problems. Make sure you can do dance and gymnastic moves safely.



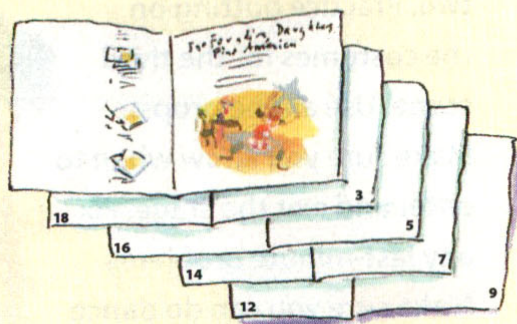
Showtime!

Perform the play. Don't forget to take a big bow at the end! ★

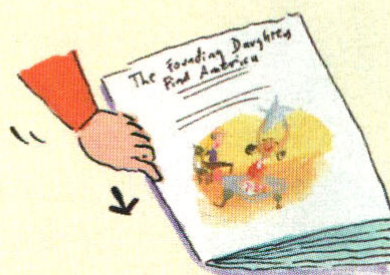
Tips for Players

- Practice saying your lines, but also learn when you're supposed to stand, sit, enter, and exit.
- Make sure you know what props you should have in each scene.
- Never turn your back to the audience unless the script says to do so.
- Stay in character even when you're not speaking. If you forget your line, say what you think your character would say.
- Make sure you say your lines loud enough for everyone in the audience to hear.

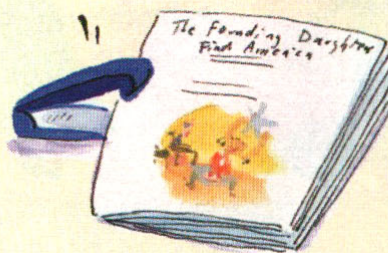
How to Make Your Script Book



1. Tear out the pages along the dotted lines. Stack the pages on top of one another in the order shown above, with this page on top.



2. Fold the stack of pages in half along the solid line in the center. Run your fingernail down the folded edge to help the pages lie flat. Check to be sure pages are in the right order.



3. Put three staples close to the fold, and you're done!



spread *your* wings and fly!



The Sky's the Limit

AG's
Butterfly
Bonanza
Poster

